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TAKE A LOOK AT WHAT TWO RETAIL BUYERS SEE AS BIG HITS FOR SPRING/SUMMER 2013 PAGE 36

CALGARY metro®

Thursday, October 18, 2012

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DOPING FALLOUT

PAGE 46

In this 2005 file photo, Lance Armstrong, of Austin, Texas, carries the United States flag and wears a jersey with Nike logos during a victory parade on the Champs Elysees avenue in Paris, after winning his seventh straight Tour de France cycling race. Armstrong stepped down as chairman of his Livestrong cancer-fighting charity, and Nike severed ties with him as fallout from the doping scandal swirling around the famed cyclist escalated on Wednesday.

PETER DEJONG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Stolen report-card data easy to access: Experts

Breached. Calgary Board of Education in process of $1-million encryption initiative, says superintendent

JEREMY NOLAIS
jeremy.nolais@metronews.ca

Tech-savvy hackers and Internet-technology professionals said Wednesday they could access 2,100 password-protected report cards stored on a stolen Calgary public-school laptop in a matter of minutes.

Details came to light late Tuesday that a device containing student grades, personal information such as home addresses and phone numbers as well as student photos had been stolen Oct. 5 from the vehicle of a Calgary Board of Education staff member.

In all, information on students attending more than 100 schools was on the laptop, which chief superintendent Naomi Johnson said was protected by a password.

She added, however, that the CBE is still working on a $1-million initiative to encrypt all of the board's digital data and that measure had not been taken on the stolen device.

"We are embarking on that process, but you can imagine we have tens of thousands of file devices in a system this size," Johnson said.

Andrew Preece, Internet-technology expert and director of Calgary's Protospace, said the lack of encryption makes the data easily recoverable.

"It would take me about how long it takes to find a screwdriver," he said, adding he could remove the hard drive and plug into a "caddy" to read the stored files.

A local computer hacker and former multimedia expert, both of whom asked to remain anonymous, shared other methods with Metro to bypass standard computer passwords.

However, both men said it's more likely the laptop thief would simply wipe the device clean and attempt to sell it.

The CBE had notified 80 per cent of affected Calgary families by Wednesday afternoon and previously reported the breach to Alberta's privacy commissioner, Johnson said.

Diane McLeod-McKay with the commissioner's office could not discuss their investigation into the breach but said that, typically, resulting recommendations would centre around the importance of data encryption and administrative policies surrounding technology.

Online

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Alternate options

Edmonton arena negotiations ended: Council

Edmonton city council voted to end all negotiations with the Katz group Wednesday — putting the future of the arena on thin ice.

In a unanimous vote, council voted to end negotiations, look into how to potentially recoup the investments the city has made already and to explore all other options for NHL hockey in Edmonton.

Mayor Stephen Mandel — appearing obviously frustrated — said the city needed to send a message to Daryl Katz that he needs to earnestly come to table.

"The problem we face in the city is that we have a partner who has not as of yet agreed to do something," he said. "I don't believe we are much further today than we were four years ago."

Mandel said Katz needs to understand that the city believed it had done enough a year ago and won't go any further.

"We need to send a message that you got a fair deal. Stand up to that fair deal," Mandel said.

The mayor also said Edmonton loves the Oilers and loves hockey, but not at all costs. "There is a love for that game that does not exist in any other city."

Coun. Amarjeet Sohi said the public should fully understand that it is the Katz group that is breaking off the deal.

"The negotiations are being stopped by the Katz group," he said.

Sohi also emphasized the second part of the motion and said council should consider all options, including cutting Katz out of the deal.

"I think we shouldn't shy away from the option of building our own," said Sohi.

RYAN TUMILTY/
METRO IN EDMONTON

The XL Foods cattle-processing plant is shown in Brooks, Alta., on Oct. 10. A U.S. subsidiary food-processing company will take over management of the XL Foods facility immediately. JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

U.S. company takes control of XL plant

Changing hands.
Alberta beef-recall facility to be taken over by subsidiary of Brazilian company

Weeks of worry and uncertainty in a southern Alberta community turned in a single moment to a wave of optimism with word that a U.S. company is taking over the plant at the heart of the recent beef recall.

JBS USA, a subsidiary of Brazilian-based JBS S.A., surprised almost everyone Wednesday with a late afternoon news release announcing it had assumed management of XL Foods in Brooks, Alta.

From its headquarters in Greeley, Colo., JBS also said its agreement with XL provides it with an exclusive option to buy the Canadian and U.S. operations of the company.

"We know full well the commitment it takes to manage world-class operations that produce safe and nutritious products for consumers around the world," said Bill Rupp, president and chief operating officer of JBS USA.

Brian Nilsson, co-CEO of XL Foods, issued only a brief news release.

"This action is another positive step to re-licensing the XL Lakeside beef plant in Brooks, Alta.," he said. "We welcome the assistance of JBS and their resources."

It was an unexpected development in a dramatic saga that began last month when the Brooks plant — one of Canada's largest beef processors — was closed over E. coli contamination.

JBS USA employs more than 60,000 employees in the U.S. It processes, prepares, packages and delivers fresh, further processed and value-added beef and pork products for sale to customers in more than 60 countries on five continents.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Suppertime elation

Earlier Wednesday, Brooks Mayor Martin Shields said the community has been in turmoil over the troubles at XL Foods. By suppertime, he was elated.

- "That's positive news," Shields said, adding it was already spreading throughout the community. "This means the plant is going to be back in operation."
- The CFIA said its review in the coming days will include how well XL Foods is handling E. coli controls, meat hygiene, sampling techniques and overall sanitation.

Sting. Homegrown child porn a growing problem in Alberta, nationwide

Det. Sgt. Darren Parisien
ROB BROWN/METRO IN REGINA

Four Albertans have been charged as part of an interprovincial sting operation against child pornography, and investigations are continuing into other files.

As well, RCMP members leading the mass investigation, dubbed Operation Snapshot, revealed they are seeing more explicit material involving Canadian minors.

Saskatoon police Det. Sgt. Darren Parisien told reporters Wednesday most of the hundreds of thousands of images seized as part of the operation were "homegrown."

He added, "(The operation) involved us going to places where people are sharing and creating child pornography. We are undercover posing as children and posing as offenders. We go where kids go. That's where predators go."

Det. Justin Brookes with the Southern Alberta Internet Child Exploitation Unit said five to 10 years ago most of the child pornography seized originated overseas. "Things have changed quite a bit since then," he said.

Operation Snapshot has spanned through Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Nunavut and the Northwest Territories — 19 arrests have been made to date.

Charges against four Alberta men, three from Calgary and one from Edmonton, include accessing, possessing and distributing child pornography as well as one charge of luring.

Brookes said the Calgary accused do not appear to have gained access to any local children, adding the luring charge stems from an undercover operation in which a police member posed as a minor.

Brookes said much work remains to determine the scale of illegal material seized.

"Typically, for these types of files we see thousands to tens of thousands of items we need to go through," he said.

JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO, WITH FILES FROM ROB BROWN/METRO IN REGINA

Side-by-side burn

Demo to showcase home-sprinkler effectiveness

Home sprinklers will be put to the test Thursday afternoon with a burn demonstration.

The Calgary Fire Department will host a side-by-side burn that is intended to show the effectiveness of having residential sprinkler systems to protect the home and to prevent injuries or deaths from fire.

Calgary fire Chief Bruce Burrell has long been a proponent of home sprinkler systems as a means of suppressing fires in new homes, but has met resistance from some over the cost passed down to consumers for the extra protection. METRO

A police cruiser is seen parked out front of a home in the 100 block of Tuscany Vista Road that was struck by at least four bullets Wednesday. JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

Neighbours startled after NW home peppered with bullets

Investigation. No one reported injured, motive for shooting unclear

JEREMY NOLAIS
jeremy.nolais@metronews.ca

Known more for packed playgrounds and quiet living, residents of a northwest Calgary neighbourhood were shocked to awake to sirens and an area home riddled with bullets Wednesday morning.

According to Insp. Darren Leggatt, police were called to the 100 block of Tuscany Vista Road around 3:45 a.m. after receiving reports of gunshots.

Quoted

"I would never imagine something like that happening, not in Tuscany."
Sasha Buenrostro, Tuscany day-home operator

Braden Walters lives a few houses down the block and said he awoke briefly to what sounded like "someone banging pots." He didn't think much of it until awaking a few hours later to the flashing lights of police cruisers parked up and down the block.

"There are a lot of kids in this neighbourhood — it is unnerving," he said.

Leggatt said an adult and two kids were inside the residence at the time of the shooting; however, no one was hurt. At least four bullet-sized holes could be seen around a second-storey window on the residence.

"At this point in time, we don't know what the motive (is) for this particular action," he said, adding the occupants of the home have no history with police. "We are hoping somebody in the neighbourhood delivering papers or doing deliveries of some kind might be able to come forward."

Residents of the home targeted by the shooters spent much of Wednesday morning interviewing with police and could not be reached for comment.

The shooting was particularly disturbing for Sasha Buenrostro, who runs a dayhome in the area.

"It's very scary," she said. "After 3 p.m., you can find 50 kids playing at this playground (across the street). There are at least three dayhomes in this area.... It's very busy for kids."

Follow Jeremy Nolais on Twitter @Metro_Nolais

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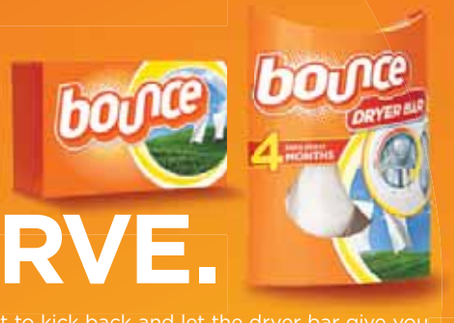

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Getting what he deserves.

Ontario man who wanted to 'stir the pot' outed by Calgary mom, fired

Justin Hutchings did the unthinkable. He mocked a dead girl.

"Thank God this b—h is dead," Hutchings wrote on a memorial page for Amanda Todd, a 15-year-old girl from Coquitlam, B.C., who killed herself last week after posting a haunting video on YouTube detailing the abuse she suffered physically and emotionally after being tormented by cyber-bullies.

In an exclusive interview with Torstar News Service, Hutchings said he was curious and wanted to "stir up the pot."

"It was more or less a social experiment than anything. Just to see if I could put the most blasphemous thing on there," he said Tuesday.

Hutchings, who worked at a Mr. Big & Tall Menswear in London, Ont., was fired after Calgary mother Christine Claveau saw his posting on Todd's death and contacted his employer.

Claveau told Torstar News Service she didn't want to get anyone fired. The company that employed Hutchings took a firm stance on this matter.

"What he wrote made my stomach turn, literally," said Claveau, who emailed Hutchings' company after finding out through his Facebook site where he worked. "They were shocked and the person I spoke to said she was mortified by what she read."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Against bullying

Claveau said she was so upset by what happened with Todd and the hate generated online afterwards — with Facebook pages mocking the girl, describing her previous attempt by drinking bleach and reposting and photoshopping her photos — that she and other moms have started their own Facebook page aimed at stopping bullying.

Talk of Todd making its way into city classrooms

A frame of the video created by B.C. bullying victim Amanda Todd that described, using cue cards, years of torment and physical abuse. Calgary students have taken notice of her tragedy. YOUTUBE.COM

Bullying victim. Local teen says suicide of B.C. bullying victim is definitely on the minds of Calgary students

JEREMY NOLAIS
jeremy.nolais@metronews.ca

Emma Dizon didn't know all the details of Amanda Todd's abuse and eventual suicide, but the Calgary teen's certainly heard talk of the tragedy around her school.

The 15-year-old Port Coquitlam, B.C., teen took her life last week after years of torment stemming from a mistake in junior high in which she exposed her breasts on a webcam.

Todd's death has sparked heated discussion all the way from the national stage of Parliament Hill to the smallest of schoolyards.

"I think it's really easy to access info about it," said Dizon, a Winston Churchill High School student, when asked about the interest in Todd's struggle. "Online presence is huge."

Recognizing this, chief superintendents from both Calgary school boards say their boards have already begun evolving their approach to discussing sensitive topics like bullying and suicide.

"We do talk about suicide as part of the curriculum," said Gary Strother, chief superintendent for the Calgary Catholic School District. "It is a delicate subject.... When teachers do talk about it with kids, they do tend to hear more stories at this time."

Strother has worked in education for three decades and said the time when talk of suicide was brushed under the classroom rug has come and gone.

CBE chief superintendent Naomi Johnson said teachers and students are free to discuss Todd's case in the classroom if they so choose.

"It (suicide) is a problem, we recognize that," she said.

Strother said Todd's case, while tragic, is just one example of a broader issue.

"The reality is we deal with it on a daily basis," he said.

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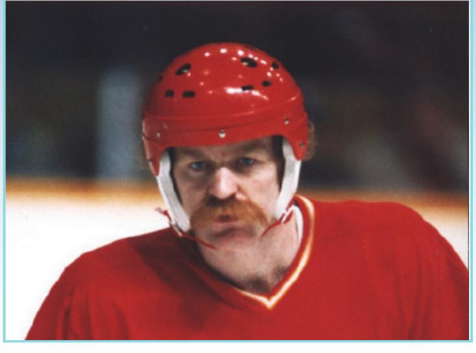

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Book documents journey towards ending homelessness

Plan. Calgary's 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness was launched January 2008

KATIE TURNER
katie.turner@metronews.ca

Nearly halfway through Calgary's plan to end homelessness, experts have documented the city's efforts, although the end of the story has yet to be written.

Susan Scott was commissioned by the Calgary Homeless Foundation to write The Beginning of the End, a story about the people who formed the CHF and spearheaded Calgary's 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness.

Scott, a freelance writer who has written extensively about homelessness issues in the past, said she was approached by former CHF CEO and president Tim Richter.

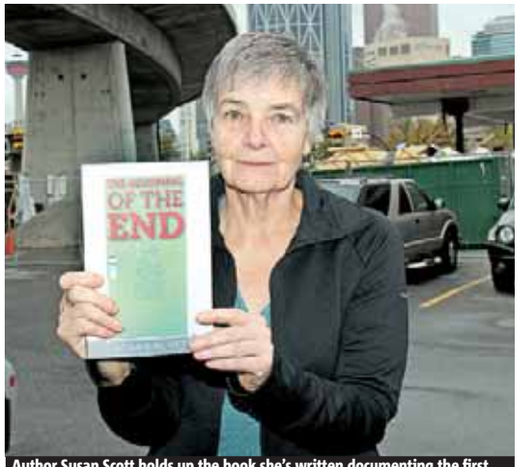
"The reason why he told me he wanted it now was because people's memories were getting a bit cloudy," she said.

Richter, who has since moved on to the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness, said other cities have been asking for some time what steps Calgary has taken, and he wanted a book documenting the city's efforts.

"So much has happened," he said.

While most Calgarians know about the 10-year plan, Scott said, the book provides insights that many in the city probably don't know about.

"For me, it was really interesting to meet the whole spectrum of Calgary, from people who've been housed to CEOs of enormous companies," she said. "When you talk to people who've been housed and are getting that support, it's so moving."



Author Susan Scott holds up the book she's written documenting the first few years of Calgary's 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness. KATIE TURNER/METRO

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University of Calgary. Brain symposium plans to inspire young students

Neuroscience researchers are hoping an upcoming symposium will not only educate high school students, but also encourage them to pursue science.

PhD candidate in neuroscience with the University of Calgary Ranjan Kumar said he was inspired to host the first High School Neuroscience Symposium in Canada.

Kumar said when he was in high school, he didn't realize what sort of opportunities were available to him.

"At that age, I never wanted to enter neuroscience because I wasn't exposed," said Kumar. "If we catch them young, we get their attention."

Along with introductory neuroscience lectures, the students will be able to gain some hands-on experience with demonstrations and experiments.

The symposium runs from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Nov. 4 at the U of C.

The event is open to all students from Grades 10 to 12. For further information on how to apply, email neuroscience.ab@gmail.com. KATIE TURNER/METRO

Quoted

"At that age, I never wanted to enter neuroscience because I wasn't exposed."

Ranjan Kumar
PhD candidate in neuroscience with the University of Calgary

Woman died near Sundre

Fatal central Alberta crash leads to charges

Mounties have laid charges in a fatal crash that killed a 20-year-old woman in central Alberta.

The single vehicle rollover happened June 23 on Highway 587 near Sundre.

Amanda Harlos died in the crash and a 22-year-old woman was injured.

Brendon Chase Wild, who is 24, is charged with dangerous operation of a motor vehicle causing death and dangerous operation of a motor vehicle causing bodily harm.

Wild, who is from Sundre, has a court date of Nov. 26 in Didsbury.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Police hunt

Man wanted on outstanding warrants

Calgary police are looking for a man they believe is connected to a series of commercial robberies in the city.

Police believe the suspect walked into several stores in north Calgary between Oct. 10 and Oct. 16, claimed to have a gun and demanded money.

Warrants have been issued for Adrian Lee Ballantyne, 25, of no fixed address. Ballantyne is described as five feet 10 inches tall, approximately 160 pounds with black hair and brown eyes. METRO

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The red outline delineates the approximate area where the proposed Bingham Crossing development would go.

GOOGLE MAPS

Opponents of development prep for next battle

Numerous concerns.

Springbank residents worried about traffic, aesthetics, water issues

ROBSON FLETCHER
robson.fletcher@metronews.ca

Springbank residents scrambled on Wednesday to submit letters opposing a development many believe will impose a big-city feel on their rural community, just west of Calgary.

"This might not be a mega-mall in the City of Calgary, but when you put a shopping centre of 200,000 square feet or whatever it is in the middle of rural Alberta ... that is a mega-mall," said Gloria Wilkinson of the Springbank Community Planning Association.

About 300 letters had been gathered by late afternoon to be submitted by deadline for a Rocky View County land-use hearing set for Oct. 30, Wilkinson said.

The action was just the latest in an ongoing battle over the development, which would include a seniors' complex in addition to retail and office space.

An earlier iteration of the Bingham Crossing project was rejected in 2010, but developers returned with a scaled-back proposal that Rocky View Reeve Rolly Ashdown thinks would be a reasonable fit.

He noted the proposed site is just across the Trans-Canada Highway from Callaway Park and an existing commercial court.

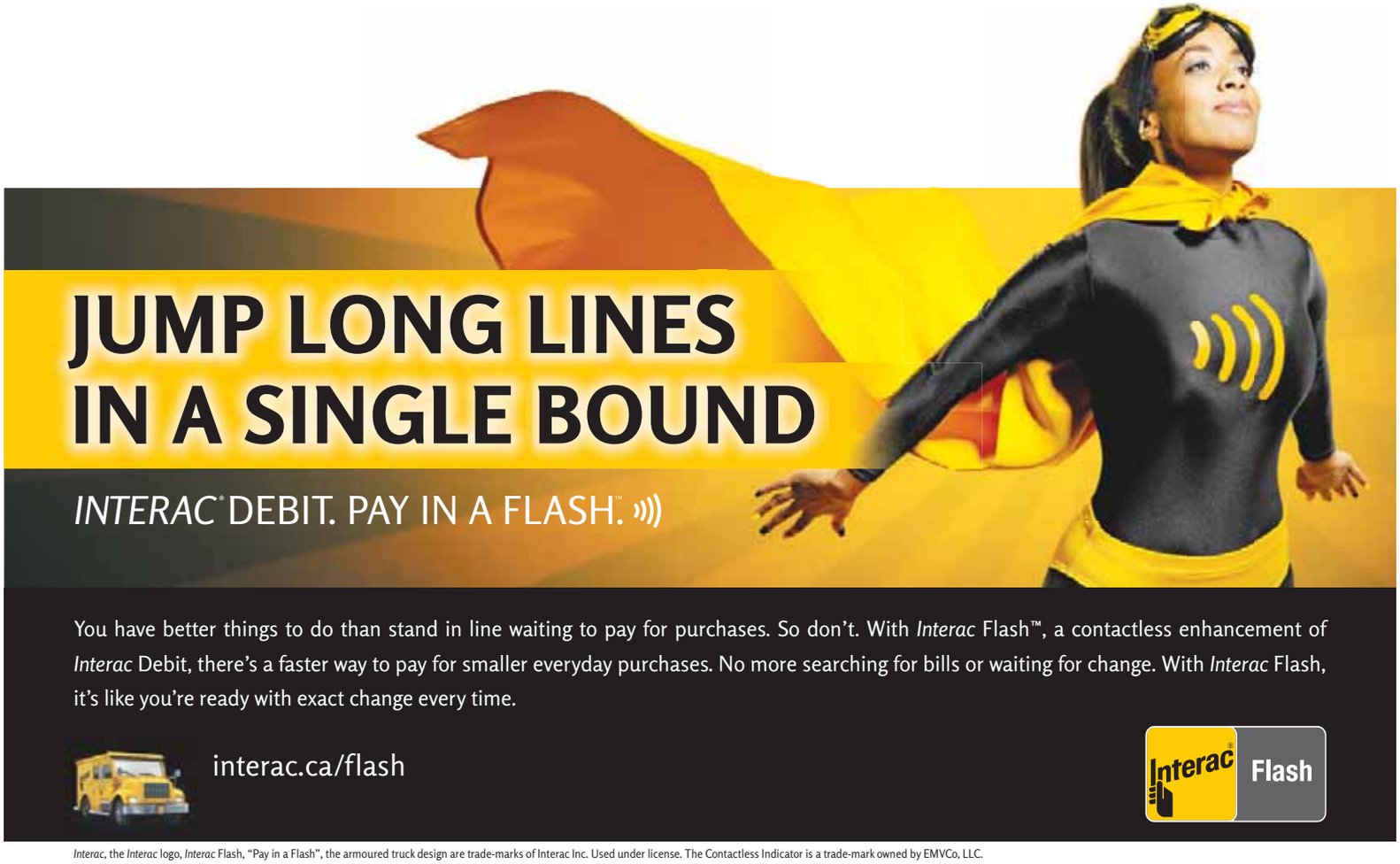
"It's not like we're changing the whole world here," Ashdown said.

Deputy Reeve Margaret Bahcheli said the split on council reflects an east-west divide within the county over development philosophy.

"You can see it. On the east side of the city, it's very much more focused on business and development," she said. "On the west side, people are very much more into the lifestyle of the Rocky Mountains."

Proceedings

- Rocky View council approved preliminary plans for the project by a 5-4 vote on Sept. 11, following a 13-hour public hearing.
- Many are anticipating another marathon hearing on Oct. 30 when the county considers a land-use application.
- "We bought (property) in Springbank because we wanted to get away from the city," said Judy Perdomo, a resident opposed to the project.
- Calgary annexed numerous portions of eastern Springbank over the last 30 years as the city expanded.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Environment. Government panel proposes independent eco-watchdog for Alberta

The Alberta government will set up an arm's-length watchdog agency to monitor the effects of industrial development on the province's environment.

The agency will set its own agenda and be empowered to decide for itself what information to release to the public, Environment Minister Diana McQueen said Wednesday at a news conference.

Although there is no price tag as yet on a provincewide system of monitoring, it will likely be funded by both industry levies and general taxation.

"Alberta is on the cusp of what I believe is a game-changer in environmental monitoring, evaluation and reporting," McQueen said as she announced the creation of the Alberta Environmental Management Agency. "This new agency will take us to a new level."

The agency is to be the final fruit of a process that began about two years ago when scientific and public criticism forced the province to revamp how it tracks the impact its booming resource-based economy has on its environment. A report delivered to the government June 20, also released Wednesday, made recommendations on how scientifically sound monitoring should be managed.

"It will be a report that comes to myself but it will be independent, allowing them to do the work they need to do," McQueen said. "We want the credibility ... and we trust this arm's-length agency will do that."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"Alberta is on the cusp of what I believe is a game changer in environmental monitoring, evaluation and reporting."

Environment Minister Diana McQueen, during her announcement of the creation of the Alberta Environmental Management Agency

Kitseukla. Emily Carr watercolour expected to fetch $300K at auction

ROBSON FLETCHER
robson.fletcher@metronews.ca

Large watercolour paintings by Emily Carr aren't often sold, so a local auction house is anticipating Kitseukla will fetch between $300,000 and $350,000 when it's put on the block in Calgary next month.

"This is rare because of its size — it's a 22-by-30-inch watercolour," said auctioneer Doug Levis. "Most of those are now in public institutions." A Toronto family owns the painting and decided to sell it in Calgary because they were advised it would fetch the best price here, Levis added.

Carr, who broke new ground for Western Canadian artists, especially female artists, painted the piece in 1928. It depicts totem poles in Kitseukla, an aboriginal village on the Skeena River in British Columbia. "This is a very important Carr painting as it is a specific and assured component of her 1928 Indian Collection," Kerry Mason, an art historian from the University of Victoria, wrote in the catalogue entry for the piece. Levis Fine Art Auctions is set to sell the painting on Nov. 4.

Kitseukla, by renowned Canadian artist Emily Carr, is set to be sold in Calgary in November. CONTRIBUTED

Arte Roofing

Safety charges lead to company improvements, says city

After pleading guilty to charges of having an unsafe site after a windstorm in January, the city says a Calgary roofing company has made exceptional changes to improve their practices.

Roof materials blew off the Carpet Mills Outlet Jan. 9, sending two spools of quarter-inch wire and several pieces of Styrofoam insulation into the air during a windstorm. Arte Roofing pleaded guilty to charges in relation, but has since changed their safety procedures.

"We are pleased with the response from Arte Roofing, as they are working with us to enhance their own safety procedures. This will help us educate other contractors and owners around the severity of having an unsafe site," said Kevin Griffiths, chief building official with the City of Calgary.

METRO

Sentencing

Stolen vehicle used as a weapon

A Calgary man has been sentenced to 5 1/2 years in prison for using a stolen vehicle as a weapon. Louie Bear was driving erratically through Calgary in September 2010, before he pulled into a parking lot and was surrounded by police. He accelerated towards the officers, at which point they fired shots at him. Bear was injured and was treated for his injuries. He will get two years credit for time served, meaning he will be eligible for parole in 18 months.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Grim conclusion

Remains found are human

Police have confirmed that remains found on Oct. 13 in a rural area near Cochrane are human. Cochrane RCMP, as well as the RCMP Major Crime investigators and Calgary Forensic Identification Section, were called out after a report of human remains being found. Further details have yet to be released. The investigation is ongoing.

METRO

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Multivitamins spring a cancer surprise

Multivitamins modestly lowered the cancer risk in a group of doctors who took them for more than a decade, a new study says. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Risk cut by 8 per cent.
But is popping these pills as effective as good diet and exercise? Experts say another study needed

Are multivitamins a perfect prescription for good health?

They modestly lowered the risk of cancer in healthy male doctors who took them for more than a decade, a study has found.

The result is a surprise — many studies of individual vitamins have found they don't help prevent chronic diseases and some have even caused problems.

In the new study, multivitamins cut the chance of developing cancer by eight per cent.

That is less effective than a good diet, exercise and not smoking — each of which can lower cancer risk by 20 to 30 per cent, cancer experts say.

Multivitamins also may have different results in women, younger men or people less healthy than those in this study.

About one-third of U.S. adults and as many as half of those over 50 take them. They are marketed as a kind of insurance policy against bad eating.

Experts said the results need to be confirmed by another study before recommending multivitamins to the public.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"I'm not sure it's significant enough to recommend to anyone."

Dr. Ernest Hawk, University of Texas cancer-prevention expert, on his doubts about the importance of the findings

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Study

Men better at blood pressure control

Older women in Canada are less successful than older men at controlling high blood pressure, a new study suggests.

And the researchers don't know why. One, Dr. Norm Campbell, said the hypertension finding is "a head-scratcher."

"I was shocked when I saw that data. I would have predicted that men would have been more uncontrolled than women," said Campbell, professor of medicine at the University of Calgary.

Researchers said the findings suggest that there may be some biological difference at play and that older women may need more medication.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Stork rides the rails

Baby born on a subway train

It was definitely an unusual arrival on a Philadelphia subway line.

Police say a woman riding the Broad Street line told officers she gave birth aboard a train Tuesday afternoon.

Transit police officer Loyd Rodgers and his partner gave the stork a helping hand after the woman approached them at the Olney station. Nestled in her clothing was her baby boy, umbilical cord still attached.

Rodgers wrapped the newborn in a blanket and called for medics.

All activity in the busy station halted as riders snapped pictures.

Mom and her baby are doing fine at a hospital.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ink stinks. Scotland Yard officers get the order: No visible tattoos, please

The full force of the law has come down on ... tattoos.

Scotland Yard has banned its officers from sporting visible tattoos.

The Yard says it damages the professional image of Britain's top police force.

The force said Wednesday the Metropolitan Police will no longer permit tattoos on the face or hands or any that appear above the collar line.

It said all other tattoos must be covered.

The Yard said officers who already have visible tattoos will be required to "register" them in writing to their managers by Nov. 12 or face disciplinary actions for gross misconduct.

The force previously had prohibited tattoos deemed offensive to religion or beliefs or that could be construed as violent or intimidating.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Too much? Certainly for Scotland Yard. CHRISTOPHER FURLONG/GETTY IMAGES

Texas attorney general cheering for Bible verses

Church and gridiron. State's top lawyer intervenes in lawsuit to allow cheerleaders to wave banners bearing Christian phrases at high school football games

Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott said Wednesday he will defend high school cheerleaders who want to use Bible verses on banners at football games.

Abbott has filed court papers to intervene in a lawsuit that cheerleaders at Kountze High School filed against the school district, complaining that a new policy violated their freedom of speech.

In September, district officials told the cheerleaders to stop using Bible verses at football games after the Freedom From Religion Foundation complained.

The atheist group argued that using banners with phrases such as, "I can do all things through Christ that strengthens me," violates the First Amendment prohibition on the government establishing a religion.

After the school told the cheerleaders they could no longer use Bible verses, they filed suit in Hardin County district court. State District Judge Steve Thomas put a hold on the new school policy while he considered the arguments, and the cheerleaders continued to make the banners. He is expected to rule Thursday.

"This is student-led expression, and that's perfectly constitutional," Abbott said. "We will not allow atheist groups from outside the state of Texas to come into the state to use menacing and misleading and intimidating tactics to try to bully schools to bow down to the altar of secular beliefs.

"If the majority of the cheerleaders were atheists, would a court support their 'right' to hold up a banner insulting Christianity or all believers?" the group said in court papers.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Governor's on board

Joining Abbott at a press conference Wednesday, Gov. Rick Perry said he supported the cheerleaders and denounced the Freedom From Religion Foundation.

- "Anyone who is expressing their faith should be celebrated, from my perspective, in this day and age of instant gratification, this me-first culture that we see all too often," Perry said.

Greek soccer clubs attract colourful sponsors

Players on Voukefalas, a small amateur soccer club, warm up before a local championship match in the city of Larissa, central Greece, on Oct. 7. Players are wearing bright pink practice jerseys emblazoned with the logos of the Villa Erotica and Soula's House of History, a pair of bordellos recruited to sponsor the team after drastic government spending cuts left the country's sports organizations facing ruin. One team took on a deal with a local funeral home and others have wooed kebab shops, a jam factory and producers of feta cheese.

NIKOLAS GIAKOUMIDIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Man charged over dinosaur fossils

A Florida man was charged Wednesday with smuggling dinosaur fossils into the United States, including a nearly complete Tyrannosaurus Bataar skeleton from Mongolia, federal prosecutors said.

Eric Prokopi, a self-described "commercial paleontologist" who buys and sells whole and partial dinosaur skeletons, was arrested at his home in Gainesville, according to a complaint unsealed by prosecutors.

He was charged with smuggling goods into the U.S. and interstate sale and receipt of stolen goods.

He also faces one count of conspiracy to smuggle illegal goods, possess stolen property and make false statements.

If convicted on all of the charges, he could face up to 35 years in prison.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Serbia

Probe ordered into soccer chaos

Serbia's prime minister has ordered a police probe into the scuffle and allegations of racist abuse during a Serbia-England under-21 soccer match, but said it was too soon to say whether the claims of racism were true. England defender Danny Rose said he was racially abused throughout the match by the home crowd. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Missing girl escapes

Suspect arrested in kidnapping

Police say a 17-year-old girl who was kidnapped after she left a club in northern Germany and allegedly raped while in captivity has escaped. Officials said Wednesday they have arrested a 28-year-old suspect with a previous rape conviction. The girl was reported missing after she left a disco in the city. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ontario

Ex-city councillor faces charges

An Ontario man involved in a 27-hour-long standoff with police is set to appear in court Thursday on charges related to an alleged armed kidnapping. Several media reports have identified the suspect as former Oshawa, Ont., city councillor Robert Lutczyk.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Arming border guards

Toews won't pull the trigger

Public Safety Minister Vic Toews says he's not interested in speeding up the arming of border guards, despite the shooting Tuesday that sent a guard at a B.C. crossing to hospital. Toews says he's concerned that any effort to speed up training might compromise safety.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Security in question after large art heist

Museum security faces criticism. Police search for suspects after largest Dutch art theft in over a decade

In Hollywood movies, heists usually feature criminals whose meticulous planning and high-tech equipment are used to avoid detection. But thieves who snatched seven paintings by Picasso, Matisse and Monet worth millions from a gallery in Rotterdam appear to have taken a less glamorous approach, relying mostly on speed and brute force.

In other words, the theft from the Kunsthal exhibition on avant-garde art was more "smash-and-grab" than Ocean's 11.

Dutch police said Wednesday they had no suspects in the case, the largest art heist in the country for more than a decade, though an appeal to witnesses had produced more than a dozen tips for investigators to follow up.

Museum director Emily Ansenk rejected criticism of the museum's safeguards. Speaking at a news conference Tuesday evening, she defended Kunsthal's security as "state of the art" and noted that insurance companies had agreed to insure the exhibition.

And yet the thieves got away.

The paintings they took are estimated to be worth roughly $100 million US if sold at auction.

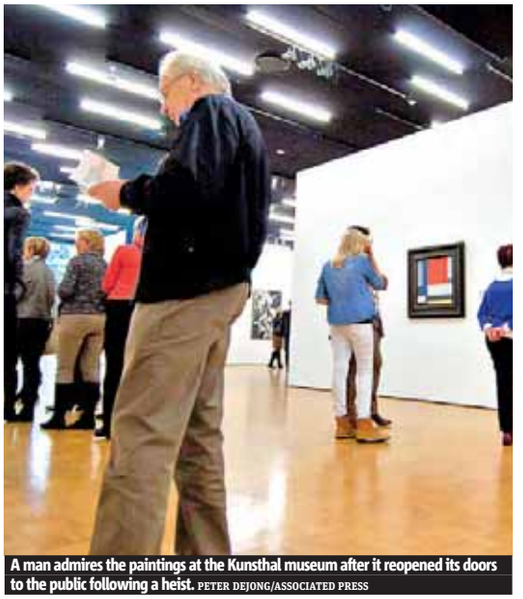
The theft raises questions about whether security at the Kunsthal museum, which was designed by renowned Dutch architect Rem Koolhaas, was sufficient to protect paintings worth millions of dollars each. Experts said features of the building's design and location itself may have been what initially attracted criminals.

"Speaking as a museum-goer, it's fantastic," museum security expert Ton Cremers said. "Speaking as a security expert, it's a total nightmare."

The gallery is located aside a large road that leads to a roundabout, less than a mile away, linking to highways heading in three directions.

The display space where the paintings once hung is a large square area, at ground level, visible from outside through glass walls. The break-in occurred at around 3 a.m. local time Tuesday, police say, after someone triggered an alarm.

The paintings had been grabbed violently from the walls, leaving only white spaces and hanging wires dangling behind.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



A man admires the paintings at the Kunsthal museum after it reopened its doors to the public following a heist. PETER DEJONG/ASSOCIATED PRESS

CALGARY PARKING AUTHORITY
Data Analyst

Reporting to the Manager of Parking Enforcement, the Data Analyst is responsible for the following:

- To strategically design and maintain collected parking data, providing both spatial and non-spatial data products, for a variety of reporting purposes.
- Manage, investigate and resolve data quality issues, and support decision makers in maintaining and enhancing the data warehouse that meets the requirements of the business.
- Prevent data quality issues by identifying frequent user errors, and work with various departments to strengthen user competence.

DUTIES

- Assess and cultivate long-term strategic goals for data warehousing in conjunction with data users, department managers, and the IT department.
- Coordinate and work with the IT department to develop database architectures, coding standards, and quality assurance policies and procedures.
- Work with end users to identify, create, and deliver reports according to requirements.
- Develop and build a spatial database for internal use, and export to the web
- Produce a variety of customized GIS maps, and other cartographic products using available internal and external data
- Identify data discrepancies and data quality issues, and work to ensure data consistency and integrity.
- Represent the CPA in meetings with a variety of City of Calgary business units (IT, ISS, Roads, Transportation Planning, etc) on a wide range of issues.

QUALIFICATIONS

- A minimum of 5 years related experience managing a database, conducting data queries, and analyzing spatial and/or non-spatial data.
- Professional designation or degree from an accredited University, or two-year technical diploma in a related field
- Business administration with a strong focus on current 'Information Technology' systems. Special consideration given for Registered (or Certified) Engineering Technologist (RET) in Alberta, and/or Certified Administrator of Public Parking (CAPP).
- Effective interpersonal, oral and written communication skills
- Demonstrated understanding of database architecture, data relationships and development of custom data queries necessary for analytical analysis of core business using GIS and Oracle or similar relational data base system.
- Experience with database platforms, including ArcGIS, Oracle, and Business Objects would be considered an asset.

The Calgary Parking Authority is committed to Employment Equity and encourages applications from all who are qualified. **Please send cover letter and resume to the following by October 31, 2012.**

Applicants are thanked in advance for their interest and advised that only individuals selected for interviews will be contacted.

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Big Bird costume sales flying high after U.S. debates

How to get to Sesame Street. The giant yellow bird is set to be a popular Halloween costume after mentions at U.S. presidential debates

The Yellow One is flying off the shelves after Mitt Romney's threat to do away with government support for PBS. President Barack Obama kept the Halloween dream alive Tuesday night when be brought up the bird again during their second debate.

At six feet, Angela Betancourt volunteered for Big Bird duty among a group of friends riffing on Sesame Street for a couple of Halloween parties and a meander along Lincoln Road in Miami Beach. She'll likely carry a suitcase as she passes out the popular kid character's resumé.

Big Bird costumes are flying off the shelves after the U.S. debates. COURTESY SCOTT SPELLMAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"I grew up on Sesame Street and I think that PBS deserves all the funds it can get," said Betancourt, 30. "We all feel the same way."

Halloweencostumes.com sold out of several takes on Big Bird almost overnight after Romney's remark during the first presidential debate Oct. 3, said a company spokesman, Marlon Heimerl.

"In the past this hasn't been a very popular costume, so when Big Bird flew the coop in such high numbers, it was definitely a big surprise," said Heimerl, who would not provide specific sales figures.

Disguise Inc., Sesame Workshop's official costume maker, said interest is up among the thousands of retailers it services.

And sellers of unlicensed Big Bird ensembles, especially sexed-up versions, beware.

"The only costumes authorized by Sesame Workshop are with our licensee, Disguise, and we are working with our legal team on having the others removed from the market," said a spokeswoman for Sesame Street. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Celebrating the harvest

A Japanese Miko shrine maiden attends a ceremony to present an offering of the first harvest of sacred rice during the Takara-No-Ichi ceremony at Sumiyoshi Shinto Shrine on Wednesday in Japan. BUDDHIKA WEERASINGHE/GETTY IMAGES

Politics. Nigerian first lady home after mystery illness kept her abroad

Nigerian first lady Patience Jonathan returned home Wednesday following a mystery illness that kept her abroad for weeks as the nation wondered about her health.

The state-run Nigerian Television Authority cut into its programming to show Jonathan waving from a presidential jet on the tarmac of Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport in Abuja. Wearing a purple traditional dress, Jonathan slowly walked into a crowd of singers, drummers and supporters, surrounded by police officers.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nigerian first lady Patience Jonathan on Wednesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Communication

U.K. PM ducks text queries

British Prime Minister David Cameron is ducking new questions about text messages he traded with Rebekah Brooks, the former chief of News Corp.'s U.K. newspapers who faces charges linked to the country's phone-hacking scandal.

Opposition Labour Party lawmaker Chris Bryant demanded Wednesday to know whether some messages had been withheld from the country's judge-led inquiry into press standards because they were "too salacious."
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Black Widow's not his wife?

Man's dramatic claim. Woman with a past is now accused of trying to kill him

A man who wed a woman dubbed the Black Widow for her criminal record linked to previous relationships says he is not legally married to her — two weeks after she was charged with trying to kill him.

Fred Weeks said Nova Scotia's Vital Statistics division sent him a letter indicating it would not register his marriage to 77-year-old Melissa Ann Weeks because false information had been provided on the marriage document.

"I'm not married to her," Weeks, 75, said from his home in New Glasgow, N.S.

"It's (Weeks) not her name."

Weeks spoke out after being released from hospital in Sydney, N.S.

Police allege Melissa Weeks gave her new husband a noxious substance, listed in court documents as the tranquilizer benzodiazepine.

She was charged with attempted murder and administering the drug. She is due in Sydney provincial court next week for a bail hearing.

Melissa Weeks was convicted in the death of her husband, Gordon Stewart, who she had drugged and run over twice with a car in 1991 outside Halifax. She served two years of a six-year sentence for that crime.

She was also sentenced in 2005 to five years in prison on seven counts of theft from Alexander Strategos, a man in Florida she had met online. Investigators said she stole about $20,000 US from him.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Melissa Ann Weeks, dubbed the Black Widow, leaves a police vehicle for a court appearance this month. VAUGHAN MERCHANT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

For a young suspected crack addict, help is at hand

Is he ashamed or just trying to hide his identity? This young suspected crack user is escorted by a welfare worker to a van that will take him to a shelter near the Parque Uniao slum in Rio de Janeiro on Wednesday. Health officials are locating hundreds of crack addicts suddenly left without drugs after police occupied the city's dangerous slums this week. FELIPE DANA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Baby blues. Childless couples seek docs' help

Almost one in seven Canadian couples trying to have a child seeks medical help to conceive, including using in-vitro fertilization, says a Statistics Canada report released Wednesday.

Age was a big factor: Data show couples in which the woman was aged 35 to 44 were two to three times more likely to seek help than were couples in which the woman was 25 to 29.

The survey also found childless couples were four to five times more likely to seek medical assistance than were those with at least one child.

More couples are delaying childbirth. Since 1984, the percentage of first-born children with mothers aged 35 or older has tripled to 11 per cent, the report says.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Some hangover! 50-day binge sparks alleged flap

A Ukrainian man, hung over from a 50-day drinking binge, sparked an uproar on a Delta Air Lines flight and had to be wrestled to the floor by passengers, it's alleged.

Anatoliy N. Baranovich, 46, woke up during the plane's descent to Salt Lake City, started yelling in Russian and tried to open the rear exit door, damaging the plane's fuselage, a criminal complaint says.

According to the document filed in court, Baranovich had been visiting family in the Ukraine for several weeks in an attempt to begin construction on a house.

Unsuccessful, he instead got drunk for the entire 50 days and "never sobered up."

A detention hearing has been scheduled for Friday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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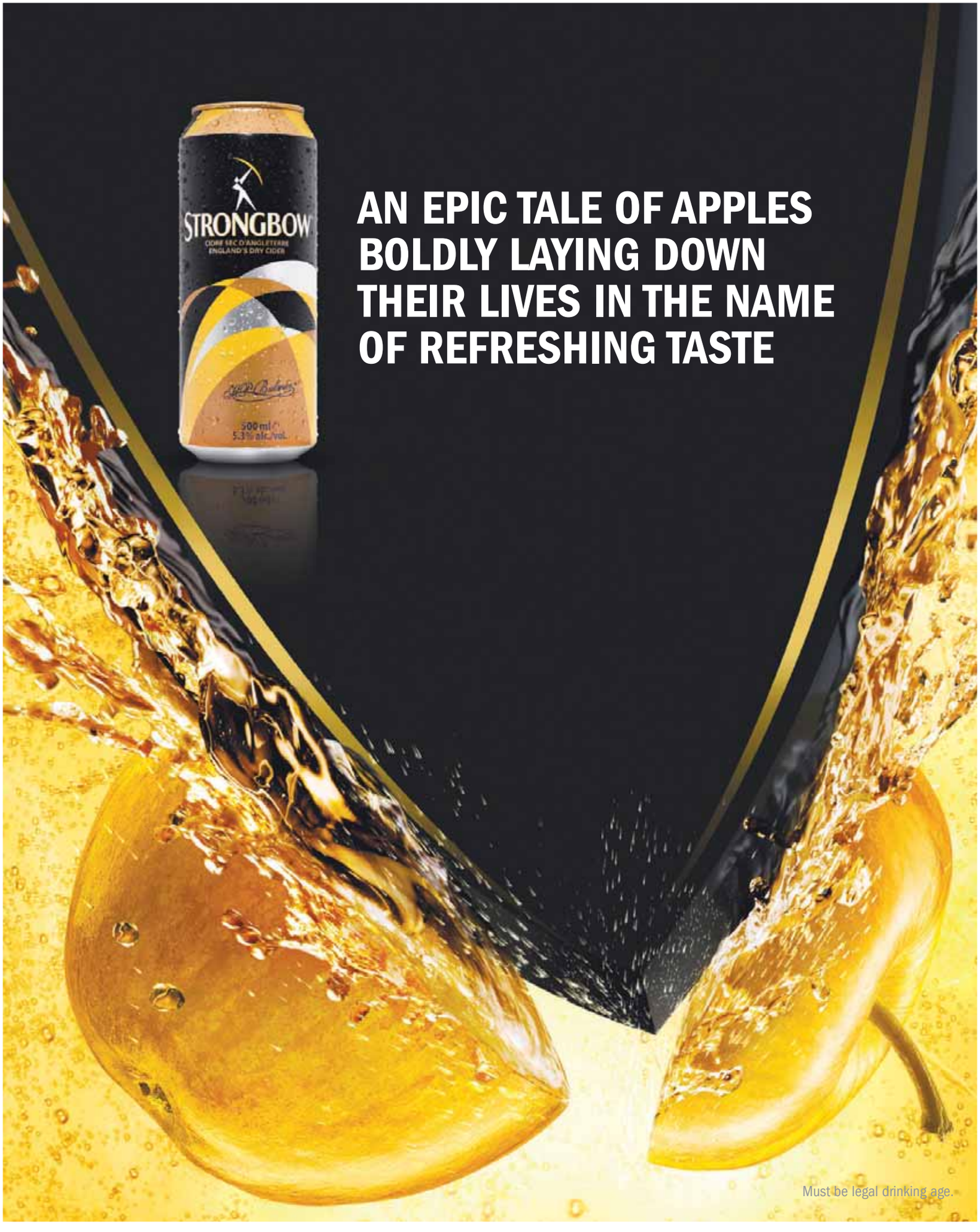
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Evacuated. U.S. Embassy in Stockholm receives unknown powder in mail

The U.S. Embassy in Stockholm was evacuated Wednesday after receiving a letter containing an unknown substance, police said.

Bomb-disposal experts were sent to the embassy to remove the letter and analyze its contents. Streets around the embassy were closed but reopened after police had removed the letter.

Police declined to give details on the content, but spokesman Daniel Granstrom told Swedish tabloid Expressen it contained some kind of "powder." Asked if the substance was dangerous, he said "it may have been dangerous, but it's not dangerous now."

An embassy spokesman said the embassy was evacuated and that officials were investigating "a possible security incident."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Swedish police and emergency workers arrive at the U.S. Embassy in Stockholm on Wednesday to investigate a suspicious package.

CLAUDIO BRESCIANI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Human Rights Watch. Libyan rebels executed Gadhafi fighters: Report

Libyan rebels appear to have "summarily executed" scores of fighters loyal to Moammar Gadhafi, and probably the dictator himself, when they overran his hometown a year ago, a human-rights group said Wednesday.

The 50-page report by Human Rights Watch on alleged rebel abuses that followed the October 2011 capture of the city of Sirte in the final major battle of the eight-month civil war is one of the most detailed descriptions of what the group says were war crimes committed by the militias that toppled Gadhafi, and which still play a major role in Libyan politics today.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Probe of leftist leader another clear sign of Kremlin crackdown

Russian propaganda?

Political activist, who has led several anti-Putin protests, denies charges stemming from Kremlin-friendly documentary

In a new sign of a widening Kremlin crackdown on the opposition, investigators on Wednesday opened a criminal probe against leftist leader Sergei Udaltsov and several other activists for allegedly planning mass riots.

Russia's top investigative agency said it also will investigate claims made in a recent documentary aired by a Kremlin-friendly TV channel that opposition leaders worked with Georgian officials to prepare terrorist attacks across Russia.

Udaltsov, 35, a leather-clad, shaven-headed leader of the Left Front opposition movement, has denied the charges stemming from the documentary, which he said was a sham.

The agency did not say whether Udaltsov and others had actually carried out any of their alleged plans.

The criminal case comes as the opposition is bracing for an online election of its co-ordination council this weekend. Udaltsov is running.

Udaltsov, who wore a Stalin T-shirt for his wedding, has led anti-Putin protests for several years, focusing on unsanctioned marches and rallies.

A great-grandson of a Bolshevik revolutionary, he has been arrested more than 100 times during his political career and spent months in prison. He has launched many hunger strikes while in custody.

Investigators, backed by armed men wearing ski masks, searched Udaltsov's apartment in south Moscow for more than five hours on Wednesday. The home of his parents was also searched, said Violetta Volkova, Udaltsov's lawyer.

"I'm going to hold on until the end, and I won't be quiet," Udaltsov said as he left his home for questioning escorted by masked armed police. "It's a wave of new repression."

In addition to Udaltsov, the criminal investigation is targeting two other leftist activists, one of whom, Konstantin Lebedev, was detained for 48 hours following brief questioning, Volkova said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Footage in question

The documentary aired last week on NTV, a channel seen as a propaganda arm of the Kremlin.

- **Raising funds.** It showed what it says was footage of the Left Front leader meeting with officials from neighbouring Georgia to discuss raising funds for protests against President Vladimir Putin.
- **Demonstrations.** In late 2011 and early this year, a series of massive peaceful demonstrations against Putin were held in Moscow and drew more than 100,000 people.

Russian opposition leader Sergei Udaltsov is escorted by police officers for questioning in Moscow, Wednesday. In a new sign of a widening crackdown on Russia's opposition, investigators opened a criminal probe against the leftist leader and several other activists for allegedly plotting mass riots.

MIKHAIL METZEL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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U.S. Violent-crime rate up 18% over last year

The number of violent crimes unexpectedly rose by 18 per cent in the U.S. last year, the government said Wednesday, the first time that total has risen in nearly 20 years. Property crimes went up by 11 per cent, their first increase in a decade.

Academic experts cautioned that the new figures do not necessarily signal an end to the long era of declining crime.

The increase in violent crime was the result of an upward swing in assaults, which rose 22 per cent, from four million in 2010 to five million last year. The incidence of rape, sexual assault and robbery remained largely unchanged, as did serious violent crime involving weapons or injury.

The U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics said the percentage increases last year were so large primarily because the 2011 crime totals were compared to historically low levels of crime in 2010. Violent crime has fallen by 65 per cent since 1993, from 16.8 million to 5.8 million last year.

Property crime in 2011 was up for the first time in a decade, from 15.4 million in 2010 to 17 million, according to the bureau's annual national crime victimization survey. Household burglaries rose 14 per cent, from 3.2 million to 3.6 million. The number of thefts jumped by 10 per cent, from 11.6 million to 12.8 million.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Perspective

"2011 may be worse than 2010, but it was also the second best in recent history."

James Alan Fox, Northeastern University criminology professor

An increase in violent crime was the result of an upward swing in assaults, which rose 22 per cent, from 4 million in 2010 to 5 million last year. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Protesters' calls to reunite jailed mom with son reach minister

Mother Emily Watkins stands holding her son Theo Picton outside the office of Madeleine Meilleur, Ontario's minister of correctional services. Watkins is calling for inmate Julie Bilotta to be reunited with her infant. GRAHAM LANKTREE/METRO

Another look. Minister of correctional services says policies on babies and moms behind bars under review

GRAHAM LANKTREE
Metro in Ottawa

Ontario's minister of correctional services, Madeleine Meilleur, said she was "touched" on Wednesday by a protest outside her office that called for prisoner Julie Bilotta to be reunited with her son born in an Ottawa jail cell last month.

"It is important to have that bonding for mother and infant," said Meilleur, who said she worked as a nurse in the delivery room of Montfort Hospital for 14 years.

"It's always a very special moment, it's a beautiful moment and should be kept this way."

Bilotta, 26, gave birth to a baby boy prematurely in a cell at the Ottawa Regional Detention Centre Sept. 29.

Protesters said her pleas of help were ignored by jail staff.

"I'm touched by all of those who want to stress the importance of the care of pregnant mothers in our facility," the minister said, adding she has her staff reviewing policies around visitation rights for mothers and infants.

The minister said she has brought in an outside team to review the case.

"She needs to be in a safe place where she can rock and cradle her infant," Dawn Moore, a representative of the group Mother and Baby Coalition for Justice, said of Bilotta, outside Meilleur's Vanier constituency office.

The minister said she couldn't comment on whether Bilotta would be given an early release considering what happened.

"When I gave birth to my six-month-old," said mother Emily Watkins as she held her son Theo Picton, "it was a way different experience. I was surrounded by my family support and trained medical professionals. Having to do that in a prison cell is just horrific."

Watkins said having contact between mother and child immediately after birth and in the days following is incredibly important.

"As soon as the baby is born they place it on your chest," she said. "The midwives said that contact between mother and child is important."

Not naming names

Minister cagey on cyber-security

The federal government is concerned about its own cyber security, but the public safety minister refused to say Wednesday where the potential threats are coming from. While the U.S. and other countries have publicly called out Chinese-owned firms as being among the dangers, Vic Toews said he sees no reason to name names — at least right now.

"If there is a national security interest that requires disclosure of some of these names and companies, that will be done in due course," Toews said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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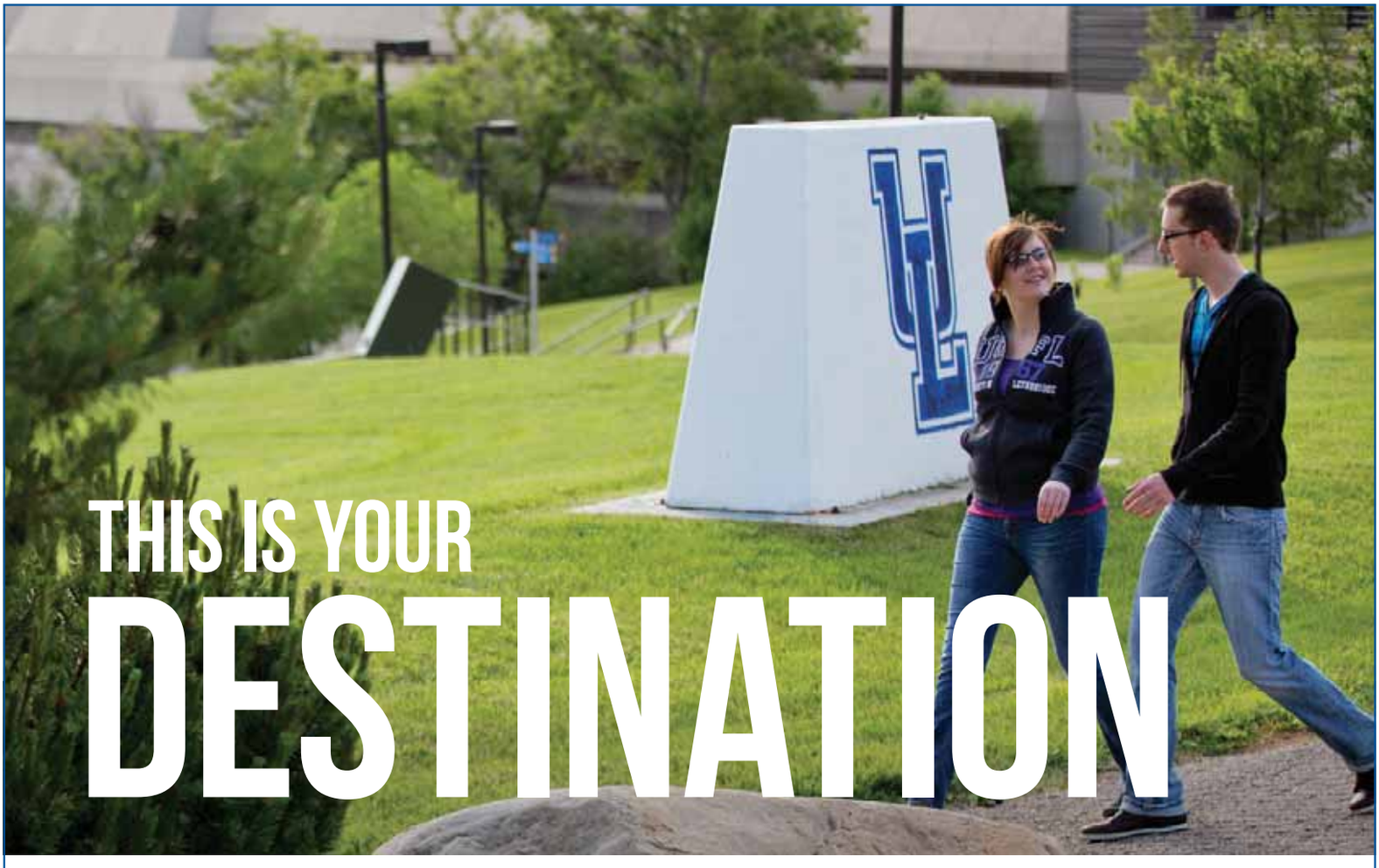

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CANADIANS ARE POLITICALLY SHY

RACHEL DÉCOSTE
For Metro
www.rachelD.ca

I'm a Canadian citizen, and have volunteered for the Liberals in Ontario and Quebec. But right now I'm in Michigan, as a volunteer working on U.S. President Barack Obama's re-election campaign.

One of the big differences between Canada and the U.S. is that Americans are not coy about which party they support. Canadians often feign being undecided when canvassers asks about their voting intentions; Americans will tell you point-blank, for example, that they are "not supporting a Muslim candidate who makes an assault on their religious rights." In fact, Canadians are so politically shy that it affects the pollsters, who actually have trouble predicting Canadian electoral results.

In Michigan, the people show their political colours quite vividly. So much so that in Detroit the Obama campaign long ago ran out of lawn signs. And in Toledo, Ohio, you can't get a lawn sign unless you actually donate your time to the campaign.

It's lucky that Americans are so engaged, because their voter registration process is time-consuming. The paperwork poses an obstacle to many would-be voters with low incomes. Thankfully, we Canadians haven't adopted this backwards bureaucratic burden that hinders participation in democracy.

Differences

"One of the big differences between Canada and the U.S. is that Americans are not coy about which party they support."

But most of all, as I work in the middle of American politics and I approach November 6, I find myself appreciating more and more our Canadian conception of health care, education and the social safety net at large. It differentiates us from our neighbours to the south. Thank goodness I am Canadian.

'Binders full of women' fails to pass truth test

Romney didn't ask for list. Names compiled by coalition of women's groups would have been handed to whoever won Mass. election in 2002

U.S. Republican presidential candidate and former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney kisses a baby during a campaign stop at Tidewater Community College in Chesapeake, Va., Wednesday. CHARLES DHARAPAK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Will "binders full of women" become legendary in American political folklore?

Democrats had their hopes up Wednesday following Mitt Romney's ham-fisted attempt to paint himself as an equal-opportunity employer during his second presidential debate against Barack Obama.

His poor choice of words set off a giddy eruption of social media mockery, lighting up Twitter and spawning a website, a Facebook page and even a song.

Democrats are hoping Romney's maladroit comment might damage his reputation among women, in particular. Female voters outnumber men in the U.S. and are playing a pivotal role in this year's campaign, with women's issues the focus of part of the debate on Tuesday.

Paul Ryan, Romney's No. 2, tried to tamp down some of the ridicule on CBS News on Wednesday morning by lauding his running mate's commitment to women.

"He has an exceptional record of hiring women in very prominent positions."

Not true, apparently. By the end of Romney's term in Massachusetts, the number of women in high-ranking positions was slightly lower than it was before he took office. The women he did hire were mostly in junior cabinet positions.

There were also no female partners at Bain Capital when Romney headed the company in the 1980s and 1990s.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Campaign. Keep us out of it, say celebs

U.S. President Barack Obama and Republican Mitt Romney are drawing fire for using personal stories and pop-culture references in campaign ads, speeches and debate zingers.

A fictional chicken became the unlikeliest character in the presidential race this month when Romney suggested, during the first presidential debate, cutting off federal subsidies for Sesame Street's Big Bird. The PBS network chastised Romney for making it a political target.

But when Big Bird showed up days later in an Obama ad mocking Romney, it was the president who drew criticism.

Obama's ads also have caused a stir at AARP, a lobbying group for seniors, whose logo appears in commercials promoting Obama's healthcare law. The organization backed those reforms and has criticized Romney's Medicare proposal, but twice has made it a point to say it's not endorsing anyone in the race.

Romney has drawn the ire of musical groups Twisted Sister and Silversun Pickups for using their songs to fire up crowds at campaign rallies.

Peter Berg, who developed the TV show Friday Night Lights, bristled when Romney adorned his Facebook page and speeches with a twist on the show's slogan: "Clear eyes, full hearts, can't lose!"

Earlier, the mother of a former navy SEAL killed in the attacks in Benghazi, Libya, accused Romney of making her son's death part of his political agenda.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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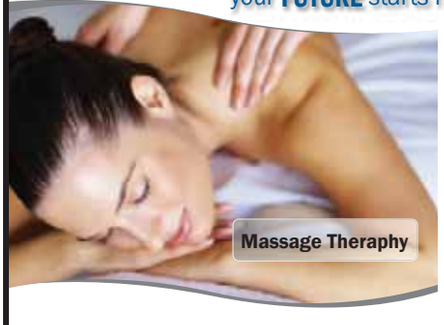

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Wine industry. Wonky weather devastates Europe's grape harvest

Drought, frost and hail have combined to ravage Europe's wine grape harvest, which in key regions this year will be the smallest in half a century, vintners say.

Thierry Coste, an expert with the European Union farmers' union, said Wednesday that France's grape harvest is expected to slump by almost 20 per cent compared with last year. Italy's grape crop showed a seven per cent drop — on top of a decline in 2011.

"Two big producing nations, France and Italy, have not known a harvest so weak in 40 to 50 years," Coste said. "All the major producing nations have been hurt."

France's Champagne and Burgundy regions were hard hit by weather conditions that particularly affected the prevalent Chardonnay grape, used to make the world's most famous sparkling wine and the luxurious whites from those regions.

In places where vintners were already facing a small margin of profit, many could be facing survival problems, said Coste of the Copa-Cogeca union.

"In certain regions, there will be many vintners in big difficulties because of the collapse of the harvest," he said.

Drought hit the Mediterranean rim hard this year, Coste said. "First and foremost, climate change or not, we see that we have ever more dry spells," he said. Making matters worse is that even winter was dry this time. "It was almost zero (degrees Celsius) in the south."

In the northern wine regions, it was the inverse, with cold and wet weather wreaking havoc. Hail in particular hurt the crops.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Global impact

- The European wine harvest automatically has a global impact since it accounts for some 62 per cent of the worldwide wine production.
- About 2.5 million families live off the wine sector in Europe, making the dependency on the vagaries of weather a sometimes cruel business.

P.E.I. entrepreneurs remember slain men

The Stay Golden Apparel business team, from left, Alex Khan, Devin MacGregor and Coltin Handrahan, designed and sold custom T-shirts this summer to raise funds for a memorial scholarship for Tanner Craswell and Mitch MacLean that will be awarded at Colonel Gray High School in Charlottetown. MacLean, from Cornwall, Ont., and Craswell, from Charlottetown, were shot and killed in December 2011 on the side of a road near Claresholm, Alta. The two had moved to Alberta to play baseball. CONTRIBUTED/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Nerve centre. Google offers peek at data facilities

Google is opening a virtual window into the secretive data centres where an intricate maze of computers process Internet search requests, show YouTube video clips and distribute email for millions of people.

The unprecedented peek is being provided through a new website unveiled Wednesday at google.com/about/datacenters/gallery/#/. The site features photos from inside some of the eight data centres that Google Inc. has running in the U.S., Finland and Belgium.

Virtual tours of a North Carolina data centre also will be available through Google's Street View service, which is usually used to view photos of neighbourhoods around the world.

The photographic access to Google's data centres coincides with the publication of a Wired magazine article about how the company builds and operates them. The facilities represent Google's nerve centre, although none is located near the company's headquarters.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lytro's 'living pictures' can be refocused

Digital photography. New camera is popular with tech and photo enthusiasts, but will it click with mass market?

Its makers say it represents "the first major shift in photography since the invention of photography." But a skeptic might say it just sounds a little gimmicky.

It's called Lytro, a boxy digital camera that takes so-called "living pictures." Basically, photos can be refocused at any time after they're taken, so something in the foreground can be made sharp with the background blurred, or vice versa. Interactive Lytro photos can be shared online for friends and family to interact with.

The effect is possible because the Lytro is a light field camera, explains director of photography Eric Cheng. "The light field is defined as all of the light travelling in every direction at every point in space — and the key component there is direction," Cheng says.

"Light field is what travels through a traditional camera but (the camera) throws away most of the information, you have a bunch of different light rays hitting one point and they all get averaged into a colour. But if it were possible to separate those light rays out, the data you'd be capturing would be this rich light field data they've been talking about in computer graphics theory for decades."

The Lytro is a digital light field camera that takes so-called "living pictures" that can be refocused after shooting. LYTRO

The Lytro first went on sale in the U.S. about a year ago and was released in Canada last week, with an eight-gigabyte version selling for about $400 and a 16-gigabyte model going for $500.

Many tech and photography enthusiasts rushed out to buy one, but now the firm is trying to go after the mass market. Cheng concedes the Lytro will be pushed as a second camera for consumers, not a replacement for low-end point-and-shoots or full-featured digital SLRs. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

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Natural gas: $3.47 US (+3.3¢)
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Good News Today

God will keep me in perfect peace because I trust in Him, and because all my thoughts are fixed on Him! Trust in the Lord always, for the Lord God is the eternal Rock.

Isaiah 26:3-4

GoodNewsToday.ca

FIGHT FOR WHAT'S RIGHT — EVEN IF IT'S TRIANGULAR

HE SAYS...
John Mazerolle
metronews.ca

All this presidential-debate talk has me thinking of the one time I took part in an organized debate, which dealt with the age-old question that has haunted humanity since it first crawled out of the muck: "Circles or triangles?"

That was the actual topic at a debate tournament at a private high school several years ago. I was a "celebrity" judge, because Justin Bieber was not available.

Going in circles

While youth are often accused of being apathetic about the important issues facing our world, that debate included a group of students who were concerned — nay, tormented —about the nation's shape-related issues.

While youth are often accused of being apathetic about the important issues facing our world, that debate included a group of students who were concerned — nay, tormented — about the nation's shape-related issues.

It was inspiring.

Even debates as goofy as that one are heartening to me. Say what you will about U.S. debates and how they contain fewer actual facts than the back of a cereal box; it's still two or more people going toe-to-toe in a real back-and-forth with passion and knowledge and (some pieces sold separately) ideas.

We could use more of that.

Instead, we're taught that there are a bunch of places where it's not polite to argue (family picnics, Facebook feeds, funeral homes). And if you're in a bar or some other acceptable debate location, most arguments degenerate quickly into volume competitions. There's a guy in my local pub that can be counted on to bellow — scream, really — "THE LIBERALS ARE THE NATURAL GOVERNING PARTY OF THIS COUNTRY!!!" at least once a week.

Though, in fairness, sometimes there's no one else there. He was talking to empty chairs before Clint Eastwood made it cool.

With this sad state of affairs, everybody should learn the finer skills of debating.

Whether you dream of one day being a world leader or you just want to goof around in a meaningless Liberal leadership race, here are some tips to drive your points home.

- Presentation matters. In 1960, radio listeners thought Richard Nixon won his debate with John F. Kennedy. But in a historical twist not often mentioned, people watching on TV thought Kennedy won, because they could see that Nixon kept kicking his dog, Checkers.
- Respect your opponent, not their ideas. This is obvious in the political arena, but often forgotten in day-to-day life. Lots of people say, "You don't have to agree with me, but you have to respect my opinion," even if they're talking about how their magnetic bracelet reinvigorates their energy force field or how much they miss Charlie Sheen on Two and a Half Men. Remember what Voltaire said: "I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend — wait, you like Two and a Half Men. BWAHAHA." I'm paraphrasing.
- Get your zingers in. It shouldn't be all about zingers, but sometimes a little sauce makes the meal more memorable. Compare: "Mr. Speaker, our subcommittee's research has shown the opposition's numbers to be skewed at best," to "Mr. Speaker, up your nose with a rubber hose." Check and mate.

Now that you have these helpful tips, get out there and argue. Do it for yourself! Do it for your generation! And, most importantly, do it for the triangle!

Because what's right is right.

Artist gets under their skin

GETTY IMAGES

Hirst's avenging angel

Pregnant women exposed in statue

Damien Hirst, the world's richest artist, unveiled his new work in Ilfracombe, England, on Wednesday.

Verity, a 19.8-metre bronze statue of a pregnant woman with her insides exposed, represents "truth and justice," he said. There have been more than 100 complaints from locals, while critics have labelled it a "dictator fantasy." METRO

The artist explains

"I know it's not for everyone, but I really hope that over time it will become accepted by the community and will benefit the town."

Damien Hirst, 47, British artist
Hirst lives part-time in Ilfracombe, where he owns a seafood restaurant. It is hoped the statue will increase tourist numbers for the town.

Hirst hits

- **The Physical Impossibility of Death in the Mind of Someone Living (1991).** A tiger shark in a glass tank of formaldehyde, given a Turner Prize nod.
- **For the Love of God (2007).** Skull encrusted with more than 8,000 flawless diamonds, with a sale price of $100 million US.

Metropolitan Panel

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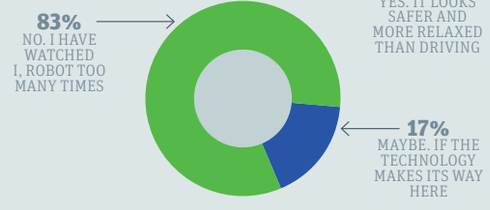
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0%
YES. IT LOOKS SAFER AND MORE RELAXED THAN DRIVING
17%
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Twitter

@thomas_way:
If its 8:15, don't give me a transfer for 8:00. Time is money bro. Time is money. #yyctransit

@MeghanDesiree:
I really need to accept the fact that it is no longer sweater weather at 8am in #YYC

@mifode:
What happened to a good Ol' wave when letting someone into your lane!! Seriously #yyc drivers.

@madeleinemac:
Calgary, why you gotta be so cold #yyc

@gRae_:
This lady is legit in my personal bubble. Please. Move. Away. #yyctransit

@SDThompsss:
Saw two pedestrians jaywalking on glenmore on my way to work. #YYC #darwinism

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Country Hills TOYOTA SCION
DRIVEN TO BE DIFFERENT

Veteran DJ wants your help to raise 200K for station

CJSW 90.9 FM. University radio station relies on hundreds of volunteers for programming

BACKSTAGE PASS
Lisa Wilton
calgary@metronews.ca

CJSW deejay Walter Porochnuk rifles through the station's huge record library. Its annual funding drive kicks off Friday. LISA WILTON/FOR METRO

Walter Porochnuk didn't know what he was getting himself into when he first walked through the doors of University of Calgary's radio station, CJSW 90.9 FM, in 1979.

At the time, Porochnuk, was a self-described "teenage geek" who didn't know much about music other than what he was forced to listen to on the city's very few radio stations.

"It seemed like such a strange place," recalls the 51-year-old U of C classroom tech.

"But it was all very exciting. At that point there was a lot going on in music that I wasn't aware of."

Thirty-four years later, Porochnuk — who hosts Halfway Home on Wednesday afternoons from 4 to 6 p.m. — is one of CJSW's longest-serving volunteers and DJs and its most ardent supporter.

However, he wasn't always so comfortable with the idea of being a radio personality. It took him several months to work up the courage to make his on-air debut.

"I can remember the first time I tried to cue a record," he says. "I was shaking so bad. I couldn't drop a needle on a record to save my life. Even talking on the microphone was like, 'Oh my God, there might be someone out there listening to me.'"

Porochnuk and his CJSW cohorts are busy gearing up for this year's Funding Drive, which kicks off Friday and runs through Oct. 26.

The station's goal is to raise $200,000 for maintenance and growth of the mostly volunteer-run organization, located in MacEwan Hall on the U of C campus.

"There are hundreds of people who try their best each week to offer something of themselves for people to enjoy," says Porochnuk.

"I know there are thousands of people who take advantage of that and do enjoy it ... It's sort of our way of asking that if you do enjoy the arts, community, multicultural music and programming on CJSW, to donate $10, $20 or $50.

Details

- The seeds of the campus radio station were planted in 1955 with the radio show Varsity Vista. CJSW 90.9 FM was finally approved by the CRTC in 1975.
- Several events and gigs are scheduled for this year's funding drive. Go to cjsw.com for more information.
- To donate, call 403-220-5000.
- Funding drive incentives include CJSW Live Sessions CD, t-shirts, hoodies, embossed journals and more.

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DRIVEN TO BE DIFFERENT

Cronin creates whole new fictional worlds

New book. The Twelve follows up on the hugely successful The Passage with new characters

DOROTHY ROBINSON
Metro World News

The way author Justin Cronin sees it, we have four main types of boogeymen.

"They come down to werewolves, monsters, zombies and vampires. They are the big four," says the engaging author from his home in Texas, where he is a distinguished faculty fellow at Rice University. "Of the four of them, the vampire story is the one with the best stuff."

So much stuff that Cronin was able to develop a highly regarded — not to mention highly profitable — trilogy based on the mythological beings.

The series began in 2010 with The Passage, a 784-page best-seller, and continues on this month with the publication of his massive follow-up, The Twelve.

In Cronin's futuristic dystopia, his vampires are known as virals: vicious, almost unstoppable monsters created by a government experiment gone horribly wrong who almost end all of humanity. In The Passage and now The Twelve, Cronin delves into two worlds: The time when the vampire plague was unleashed upon society and a hundred years into the future. His cast of characters numbers into the hundreds. Locations not only span coasts but decades and lifetimes. His word count is epic.

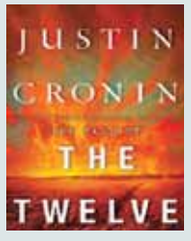
How does he keep it all straight?

"That was something I had to learn how to do," he says. "When I was writing the first book, I discovered my brain can naturally hold up to 800 pages of manuscript; at page 801, the top of my head flies off and I can't remember how to use the coffee maker. I had to grow a couple hat sizes to be able to do this."

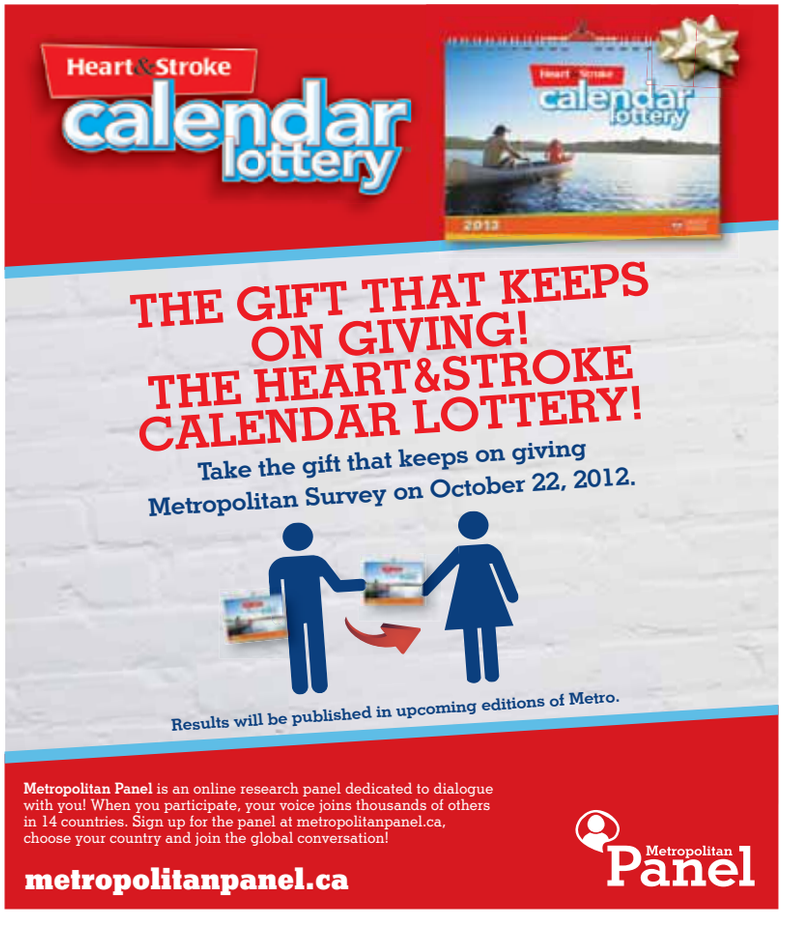
Virals

The addition of the virals make the series into a horror thriller, but for Cronin the beasts are a way to get to the real meat of his tale: How does the human race survive when civilization ends?

- **Quote.** "I use the vampire story as a way to get to a post-apocalyptic story," Cronin says. "I really believed as a kid we'd all get incinerated; at that time it really looked like things would end."



Justin Cronin is releasing a new book called The Twelve. JULIE SOEFER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Lloyd Robertson opens up in The Kind of Life It's Been

New book. The former anchor of CTV's National News pens biography on the difficulties he has experienced

Lloyd Robertson.
MICHELLE SIU/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Throughout his six-decade career, Lloyd Robertson developed an unassailable reputation for delivering an authoritative account of the day's news.

His classic style in presenting "the kind of day it's been" became as distinctive as his rich baritone, and established the silver-haired anchor as the quintessential detached newsman.

Now retired from CTV National News and in a reflective mood with the release of his memoir, Robertson is delving into the little-known story behind his cool demeanour, a painful childhood that he says ingrained a steely ability to clamp down on emotion.

"For some reason I glommed on to radio as the place where I wanted to be," Robertson says of a troubled youth that sent him searching for escape.

"It opened a whole world to me that I didn't even know existed and I could live in that world of imagination and ignore what was happening around me on a close personal level at home."

Home was Stratford, Ont., where Robertson was born Jan. 19, 1934. His father was a 60-year-old machinist's helper with the Canadian National Railway. George Robertson already had eight children from a previous marriage, another son nine years Lloyd's senior, and a pension so meagre that the cupboards were often left bare, Robertson says in his biography The Kind of Life It's Been.

Among the revelations: before putting his voice to use on the radio, Robertson was part of a barbershop quartet as a teen; both the Conservative and Liberal parties tried to woo him into federal politics; Jean Chretien's office asked if he'd consider a seat in the Senate; and while at the CBC, a bout of hallucinations sent him to hospital for nervous exhaustion.

"That really for me was a health scare because it said to me: You've got to keep control of yourself and keep control of your mind because your mother's genes are in there," Robertson says of the episode, in which he recalls "losing touch with reality" and "fighting for control of (his) own thoughts."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Led Zeppelin discuss new concert film

Celebration Day. The iconic Led Zeppelin returned to the stage and now brings that experience to the big screen

DOROTHY ROBINSON
Metro World News

Robert Plant, left, Jimmy Page, Jason Bonham and John Paul Jones have released a new concert DVD. KEVIN MAZUR/GETTY IMAGES

Only 18,000 people were lucky enough to watch a somewhat reunited Led Zeppelin in 2007 at a tribute concert in honor of Ahmet Ertegun, the late founder of Atlantic Records who died in 2006. More than 20 million people applied for tickets to catch the one-off, two-hour show at London's O2 Arena, featuring Robert Plant, Jimmy Page and John Paul Jones, playing their first real concert since the mid-1980s (Jason Bonham, the son of Zeppelin's original drummer, John Bonham, was on drums).

Now the millions of fans who were left out can catch what happened in the new concert film Celebration Day, in theaters today and available on DVD on Nov. 19.

At a recent press concert to promote the film in New York City, the surviving Zep members were charming and funny, but they gave no indication that another reunion would take place any time soon. They did allow, however, that choosing Jason Bonham to join them onstage was a no-brainer.

"Once the idea was proposed — 'Would we do the concert?' — it had to be Jason," Page said.

For Bonham, who has played with the band twice before, the giddiness of joining them again at the O2 hasn't abated.

"I had lots of moments where I kept saying 'I'm playing drums for Led Zeppelin!' This really is something special and something I dreamed about all my life. I watched Song Remains the Same so many times that the look that Jimmy gave John in No Quarter, I remember, I looked over just like Song Remains the Same. He gave me the same look," says Bonham, before turning to Page. "It probably wasn't for the same reason you (looked at) Dad, but it was very, very special for me, honestly."

Page then joked, "That was the 'where are we?' look,"

Celebration Day includes the band's monster hits such as Stairway to Heaven, The Song Remains the Same and Dazed and Confused, as well as the unexpected, such as 1976's For Your Life, which the band had never played live prior to the London show.

Celebration Day is just a straight-up concert film, meaning no talking heads, no backstage glances, no trippy "quest" montages like in The Song Remains the Same. They appear shaky at first but then quickly get into their old rock 'n' roll habits. Per Page, they worked hard at "getting it right."

"We just really wanted to get it right and go out and play to people who maybe never heard us, who had heard about this reputation and what we were about, and basically stand up and be counted for what we were," he said.

Quote

"We just really wanted to get it right and go out and play to people who maybe never heard us."

Jimmy Page
Talking about getting Celebration Day to a place where they would be happy with it.

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Blue Rodeo remixing the 'cheesy' fan favourite Try as part of new box set

Music. Greg Keelor talks about why he remastered the hit song and the process for developing their new release of old music

Members of Blue Rodeo pose on the red carpet as they arrive at this year's Juno Awards. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

It's a beloved Canadian '80s rock classic that's a mainstay on best-of lists but until recently, hearing Try would make Blue Rodeo's Greg Keelor cringe.

"It had a lot of cheese on it," explains the co-frontman in an interview alongside fellow crooner Jim Cuddy.

"Our first record Outskirts has that real '80s sound, it sounds like Tears for Fears were backing us up."

But not anymore. Keelor remixed Try and the other tracks on Outskirts for the new eight-disc box set Blue Rodeo: 1987 - 1993, which also includes remastered versions of the band's first five records, demos from the album Casino, and other previously unreleased material that hasn't been heard before.

"For me, I'd take cracks at every song we've ever done, basically. I'm a tinkerer by nature," says Keelor, who noted that Try wasn't really overhauled as much as it was refined.

"Mostly we were just getting rid of a lot of the studio technical gimmickry of that era — the '80s have a sound. The snare drum sound of the '80s was never our favourite, so it was sort of funny that our first record has that sound."

The band's first crack at working with a producer in a recording studio — with Terry Brown, who teamed up with Rush on nine albums — ended with the musicians accepting some sonic decisions they regretted.

"You get in those unfamiliar surroundings like a recording studio and you kind of listen to what's being said, 'This should be faster, slower you gotta put this 12-string guitar in,"' Cuddy says.

"And we just did because everything sounds nice in a studio, it may not be what you want, but it sounds nice."

One hard-fought victory that Cuddy did win was in adding a reverb effect to Try — although Keelor was eager to scrub it off for the remixed version.

"Jim was determined to have reverb on it ... so we put reverb on the whole track, everything had reverb — and a lot."

Keelor also tweaked the original sound of the organ in the song, which he thought had an over-the-top cheesy sound.

"It was nice to bring it back ... without all the cheese on it."

Looking back, early mistakes made while recording their debut and their follow-up Diamond Mine — when they grudgingly went along with some decisions to tweak their sound — were important, Cuddy said.

"It's happened to us a couple times in our career where we've given up control of something for what we thought were good reasons and it has never ended up being the case — but we have learned something very good from it," he said.

"We were entering, sonically, areas we really were not that comfortable with, that wasn't the way we sounded and it certainly wasn't the way we started. We started out to be the anti-music of that kind of music.

"What we learned was we never, ever ceded control to anybody again for our records."

The band is working on a new album at Keelor's farmhouse studio and appreciates that the release of the box set gives them more time to brainstorm new ideas.

"We can record very leisurely, we don't have a very heavy due date," Cuddy says.

"You can't have everybody be uptight (worrying about deadlines), you've got to explore ideas. Where we were at a month ago at his place is not where we are now. We do understand now what we're making." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Try again

Meanwhile, there's not one but two new versions of Try for fans to check out — sort of.

- **Rap music.** Rapper Maestro sampled Cuddy's vocals in Try for his track Reach for the Sky, off his Black Tuxedo EP.

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Portrait of a widow as a remarkable woman

Ethel. RFK's daughter celebrates her widowed mother's poise and strength in new HBO documentary

In the thick of the presidential campaign, a documentary about a political wife wouldn't seem to offer respite from the clatter.

But that's exactly what Ethel, an intimate, affectionate look at Ethel Kennedy by her youngest child, manages to do. It's a heartfelt reminder of public service's rewards and heaviest demands, elements that can be lost in the moment's rough-and-tumble.

It also honours a rarely interviewed Kennedy wife who was eclipsed by her more glamorous sister-in-law and sister in tragedy, Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy.

Debuting Thursday on HBO (9 p.m. EDT), Ethel offers the life and times of Robert F. Kennedy's widow through the lens of accomplished filmmaker Rory Kennedy, born six months after her father's 1968 assassination.

Her mother is a reluctant star but, with the help of siblings and a rich film and photo collection, Rory Kennedy creates a portrait of a feisty, devout and socially concerned woman who carried — and carries — on despite shattering loss.

Ethel weaves family memories with the major events of her husband's political life, including the Cuban missile crisis that confronted his brother, President John F. Kennedy, and RFK as U.S. attorney general.

It also creates a charming portrait of Ethel as a girl who would rather handicap the ponies than study her schoolbooks and who raised her children to be game competitors, never whiners.

But Ethel Kennedy's on-camera discomfort marks her as clearly out of step with the Facebook crowd. So why agree to the project?

"Because it was Rory who asked," replied Kennedy, 84, in an interview in which she kept her answers short, pointed and invariably self-effacing.

Asked to assess the film, she replied, "How remarkable she (Rory) is that she can pull something out of nothing. It's not like I've ever done anything. It's like I was just there."

Rory Kennedy quickly jumped in.

"It's consistent with how my mother speaks about herself. She has accomplished so much in her life and done extraordinary things," she said.

"But as you can see, she's not comfortable giving herself credit for it."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RFK's assassination

- **Still a struggle.** One area that remains off limits for Ethel Kennedy in the film is her husband's Los Angeles shooting. "Talk about something else," she replies to her daughter's question on the subject.

Robert F. Kennedy's widow Ethel Kennedy is portrayed as a feisty, socially concerned woman in a new HBO doc. HBO

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Halle Berry

Halle Berry loves her 'Louie Lightfoot'

Halle Berry is opening up about how she first fell for fiancé Olivier Martinez. "When I first met Olivier, there wasn't the initial 'I'm in love!' It was something that grew more gradually — and it feels more real because of that," she tells In Style magazine. "He's silly, a clown, and very much the life of the party, which is good for someone like me. Danny Downer … been there, done that. Now I like Louie Lightfoot!"

Rupert Sanders

How Sanders got his groove back

Snow White and the Huntsman director Rupert Sanders — who made a name for himself by having an affair with star Kristen Stewart earlier this year — has reportedly booked his first directing gig since the scandal, according to Deadline. Sanders is set to take on the Juliet, based on a science-fiction short story by Alfred Bester. Sanders is also allegedly in talks to direct a Van Helsing reboot.

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Kate Gosselin gets no love from the coupon clippers

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

Kate Gosselin has had a hard time finding work since her TLC TV show Kate Plus 8 was cancelled. And now it looks like her one steady gig, being the world's most famous coupon blogger, has come to an end. Yes, earlier this week, Coupon Cabin's CEO Scott Kluth wrote a letter to his users telling them they let Gosselin go. "A series of recent events have made it clear to me that Kate Gosselin and her contributions do not align with the authenticity which we set out to build almost a decade ago, and that Ms. Gosselin is simply not a good fit with the wonderful team and culture at CouponCabin. It's with this that I am writing to inform you of our decision to discontinue Ms. Gosselin's feature blog on CouponCabin.com."

And did the claws ever come out in the literally hundreds of comments this post produced. Some of the finest: "I remember reading her blog and actually saying out loud, 'What does any of this information have to do with using coupons?'" Lynne M

"It is about time. There was not ONE GOOD COUPON tip she EVER contributed to this class site." Nancy Davis Kuziola

Lesson learned? Don't cross online couponers. They are a frisky, money-saving and very vocal bunch.

Home, separate homes for Twilight lovers

While Kristen Stewart and Robert Pattinson may have reunited, they may start off their reconciliation living apart. Stewart has reportedly purchased a $2.1 million house just a mile and a half from the Los Feliz home she shared with Pattinson prior to this summer's scandal over her infidelity, according to Hollyscoop. Stewart apparently bought the four-bedroom Spanish-style property in August, though, when the couple seemed to be on the outs, so maybe now that they're back together she won't be using it much.

Twitter

@andersoncooper
The hotel blanket that's there for decorative purposes creeps me out.

@msleamichele
Doing some major fall cleaning at my house right now! I love it! So excited to pull out the sweaters and boots! :)

@NiaVardalos
Dear sweet kind pretty woman who pointed out my laptop I'd left behind on a counter yesterday. Thank you.

@SteveMartinToGo
I'm actually quite funny today. It's my Twitter account that isn't.

Katy Perry

They're hot then they're cold: John and Katy on again?

On-again, off-again couple John Mayer and Katy Perry appear to be on again — or at least they did this week in New York, where Mayer celebrated his 35th birthday at a quiet dinner with friends and family, according to Us Weekly. Perry was by his side the entire night. "It was a very tame and civil," a source says. "They talked and laughed but nobody got crazy. Everyone looked like they were having fun. John seemed happy."

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Shopping the runway

From runway to retailer: While some trends only last the length of the catwalk, other creations will find their way to the shop floor. We chat to two buyers about what they think will be the biggest hits for spring / summer'13.

RICHARD PECKETT
richard.peckett@metro.lu

Simply monochrome

Always a favourite with fashion editors and for those of us who are after something timeless and recession-proof. In a sense, it's well-crafted simplicity, but that's not to say you're playing it safe with your look. Designers use the monochrome colour palette as a platform for a multitude of styles: long and loose at Celine, "deconstructed classicism" in designer Alber Elbaz's words at Lanvin (think tuxedos, kimono styles and square-shaped pieces), with ruffles and provocative slits and cuts at Balenciaga.

Glamour girls

"Sequins and intricate beading wove their way onto the most glamorous of dresses and gowns at Alexander McQueen and Valentino, while embellishments glittered in creations from the likes of Oscar de la Renta and Chanel," Head of Womenswear Emma David told Metro. Ornamentation always gets the red carpet flashbulbs popping and that's something the high street loves to recreate with glitzy evening wear looks.

Sixties redux

"There was a big sixties retro influence across this summer's trends — both for abstract, minimalist styles across collarless jackets, pencil skirts and dresses appear in matching stripes and checks," says ASOS's Buying Director Emma Fox. Where Tom Ford went for a style à la raunchy sex kitten with a nod to Barbarella, Gucci explored vibrant tunics and trousers, while Moschino's designer Rossella Jardini referenced style icon Audrey Hepburn (pictured) with cutesy dresses and shrunken proportions.

Sheer style

Play peek-a-boo come summer with the cheeky, diaphanous trend. ASOS's Emma Fox reckons it'll be a big trend for the online retailer after it arrived on an array of catwalks. Haider Ackermann (pictured) notably showed a billowing bespectacled polka-dot slip dress, chic and sheer at Topshop Unique and sexily sassy at Nina Ricci. It's a teasing, seductively sophisticated look without being out and out slutty. If past seasons are anything to go by, this revealing trend is likely to be one of the biggest sellers.

Flower power

If fashion had seasonal style commandments, florals would be one of the most sacred. It's a fashion institution and this season was no different, with pop art daisies at Prada to floral print forties tea dresses and "this season's wallpaper blooms mixed with clashing patterns at Christian Dior, Erdem (pictured) and 3.1 Phillip Lim, is sure to be embraced," Helen David, Harrods' womenswear general merchandise manager, told Metro.

Twitter

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@Jeanne_Beker: With Joe Mimran @JoeFresh HQ. Spring's all about graphic prints, disparate textures, cool shapes...

@Jeanne_Beker: With Narciso Rodriguez, watching HIS fashion show @ narcisostudio @thehudsonsbayco fund-raiser

The Kit

Canadian street style

Spotted in: Toronto

Sarah Moore

Store associate at clothing store, SIC

Age: 24

What she's wearing
Rayban sunglasses, City Beach necklace, Agent 99 jacket, Evil Twin blouse, Jay Jay's jeans, Obsessed leather bag

Her inspiration
"I love the combination of vintage and edgy looks. I find inspiration for my style from The Satorialist. I look at his blog almost every day."

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Spring into future fashions with ease

On top of transition. Can't wait to try out the trends from recent runways? Just go for it!

If the bright red lipsticks of fashion month seems too much, try the look out in a lip gloss. LOUIS LANZANO / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The most influential runways have had their say for next spring, but there's no need to wait for stores to stock up on cut-outs, lightweight leather, sleeveless jackets and shorts suits. There's a way to capture "fashion next" right now: with your lipstick, hair and handbag.

The themes in many of the collections were strength and toughness, and more than a hint of sexiness, which can be achieved in ways adaptable to many ages and lifestyles.

Tweaking your makeup routine is more about how you wear the products than a change in products themselves, says Linda Wells, editor in chief of Allure. This season the overall look was relatable to the everywoman — save the patent-leather eye candy at Fendi. It included red matte lips, red lacquered nails and a low ponytail.

"You can adopt new trends right away, but you're not going to look out of season," she says. "It's not like you're starting to wear crisp white dresses in November or sandals in the winter."

Transition is underrated, adds makeup artist Bobbi Brown. Take the time to move from one trend to another with an evolution in your look instead of a jarring change. "I've always held the philosophy that trends shouldn't be stuff that you have for a few months and get rid of."

Who can argue with flawless skin, full, red lips and slightly tousled hair?

"I like that it all seems a little undone but not fussy," says hairstylist Oscar Blandi, who saw flashes of Brigitte Bardot on the catwalk. "It's a little raw and very beautiful."The clothes exuded so much confidence that Blandi found balance with more natural-looking hair and makeup.

Shoes and purses also are "early adopters" of trends, largely because affordable versions of what's on the runway are widely available. Expect extreme gladiator styles and hardware at a store near you.

"All the clothes with leather harnesses are hard for real women to afford and to wear, so the bondage movement hit the feet, and the shoes were sexier than ever," fashion commentator Mary Alice Stephenson says. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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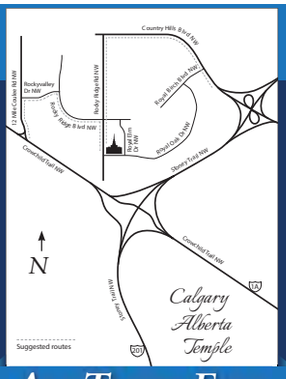

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Grey days with sunshine ahead

Decor report. The season's most welcomed colour combination is neutral grey and warm yellow

DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

It's not news that grey has become this year's most-loved neutral in home decor.

The cool tone has been teamed with all the fashionable colours including espresso brown, orange, pink and now yellow.

The combination of grey and yellow offer decorators the best of both world's: the cool relaxing tones of grey and the warmth of a cherry yellow.

This way, we can decorate with a sophisticated look without a room feeling too depressing, especially during the long winter months.

Tips for decorating with yellow and grey

- If painting your walls grey, choose a tone (that's the light and dark aspect of colour) lighter than the tone of your flooring. If painting with yellow, always choose a brown- or green-based yellow for a more neutral effect.
- Remember the 30/70 colour mix rule: Choose 30 per cent yellow items and 70 per cent grey for a room. Never have equal amounts of colour (50/50) in a room.
- Grey will hang around the decor scene for a long time, whereas yellow is a two-year trend.

Keep in mind yellow is psychologically the most irritant colour of all. It's the first colour our eye is attracted to and also the first colour our eyes tire of.

Use it judiciously as an accent when decorating your space.

Donegal Chair, $1,600

Just a touch of bright yellow helps brighten a mid century modern style chair. CrateAndBarrel.com.

D-Constructed Throw, $149

Warm up with this seasons most welcomed colour combination of graphite and celadon. CB2.com.

Majestic, $60/roll

Modernize traditional wallpaper with a cool and warm colour mix of gold and grey. GrahamBrown.ca.

Myro Plate, $16

Mixing warm and cool tones on the table. CrateAndBarrel.com.

Peeled Lace Pendant, $700

Artful hanging lights create a warm glow with amber and grey glass. Anthropologie.com.

Cleaning

Belts or suspenders —not both

Hello Charles. An old-fashioned question: Suspenders (braces) with belt or without? What about the bloody belt-loops? And do I need to clean these?
Thanks, Glen

CHARLES THE BUTLER
askcharlesthebutler@metronews.ca
For more, visit charlesmacpherson.com

Hello Glen, Suspenders are a wonderful invention and truly work!

However, pants are designed to be worn only with one of the two items, so you must pick to wear either your suspenders or belt but never both at the same time.

Don't worry about the belt-loops while wearing suspenders, as it really doesn't matter.

Washing suspenders only needs to be done if and when they are dirty with a stain.

In that case if they are dirty, they are cleaned based on the material.

You will be wanting to show off your fresh, clean suspenders. ISTOCK IMAGES

Canning is inherently green — now make sure it's also safe

Can I buy BPA-free canning lids?
-Brenda of Halifax

QUEEN OF GREEN
Tovah Paglaro
green@metronews.ca

The best practice would be buying glass lids from thrift stores and markets. ISTOCK IMAGES

The short answer is that, yes, BPA-free canning lids are available. And I'll tell you who makes them.

The long answer, however, is that although BPA-free canning lids are easy to find, they may not be the answer to your toxin-free food-preservation efforts.

A popular BPA-free option is the Tattler Reusable Canning Lid. It's made from polyoxymethylene copolymer (POM), which is a fancy way of saying that it's a BPA-free plastic. Yup, plastic! And it's not without its own cause for concern. This rigid compound has trioxane as a key compound — in other words, formaldehyde.

The jury is still out on the relative safety of ingesting trace amounts of formaldehyde.

Fans of the BPA-free lids point out that formaldehyde isn't released from polyoxymethylene until temperatures reach 250 C (482 F), well above the processing temperature for canning. Critics note that other factors — like acidity — can affect the release of formaldehyde from plastic.

So what's a concerned canner to do? First, let's be clear — my hat is off to all home canners. No matter how you look at it, putting up local food in re-usable glass jars to be eaten all season is inherently green. And choosing to eat from glass jars, instead of BPA-laden cans, can only be good for your health.

Now for the nitty-gritty best practices. I vote for buying traditional glass lids from thrift stores and markets whenever possible.

Barring that, consider using the boiling water bath (BWB) method instead of pressure canning. If adequate space is left in the jar, proper BWB canning doesn't require the food to touch the lid. Finally, you may want to try preserving some foods using other methods, like freezing and dehydration.

Happy canning!

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A portable fire pit will keep you warm on your patio even into the winter. ISTOCK IMAGES

Lower temperatures doesn't mean last call for your patio

DIY ideas. Add a few products to your deck to enjoy it even when the temperature dips

The weather may be cooler, but that doesn't mean you have to run inside.

These clever products will help you keep your patio or deck warm and cosy into the cooler months so you can enjoy your outdoor time even longer.

I Want That supplies more ideas like these as it takes a fast-paced tour through the latest and greatest building products and profiles all of the 'must-haves' for every home.

Warm Up

A portable fire pit can be the greatest thing to add to your outdoor space in the fall.

Make sure you find one that guarantees no rust, as well as a protective shield to ensure it keeps everyone safe.

On a smaller scale, fire bowls are a handy product to have. They usually have a mesh cover for safety, ensuring everyone stays safe and warm. You can also invest in a tall propane heater to stay on the patio right into the winter. These products can provide a 10 to 12 foot diameter of warmth, and most have a table that fits on the bottom for additional use.

Add Some Light

With cooler weather comes shorter days, so make sure you keep your outdoor space lit properly to enjoy the evenings.

Light-up flower pots are a fun way to provide a warm, ambient glow from planters that use low-watt LED lighting. These can be used in clever ways throughout your outdoor space to highlight various areas of your yard and home. Similarly, globe lights are a great way to add some personality and charm to your patio.

These frosted hanging lights can be used to dress up your space for a party, or just to add light on a chilly night.

Entertain

It may be cooler, but you can still entertain outside.

Consider outdoor speakers that will deliver crisp audio while being compatible with electronic devices so it's easy to transfer music.

You can always add more to amplify the sound further. A serving cart is a great way to treat guests on a patio, bringing them warm hot chocolate or mulled wine to ensure they stay cosy.

Get The Gadgets

Have fun with the outdoors this season! Look for a super blower — a handy product that combines a leaf blower, vacuum and mulching tool into one.

This will make clean-up of your outdoor space a breeze during this leafy season. A digital wall temperature clock is another great gadget.

This will automatically set the date and time — and update it during daylight savings. It tells you the temperature both inside and outside so you know when it's finally time to move indoors.

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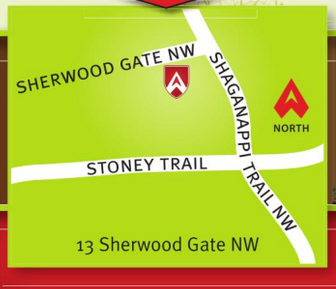

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HOW TO GROW YOUR BUSINESS

ISTOCKPHOTO/THINKSTOCK

Is it time to go shopping for a major purchase for your growing small business? It can be hard not to get swept up in the excitement. Whether it's a major technology upgrade or shiny new equipment, you probably spent hours shopping around for the best product, comparing consumer reviews and talking with vendors.

Then comes the hard part: How to pay for it? Here's where many entrepreneurs could be doing a better job.

Financial planning for an expansion project may not be quite as sexy as a cool new smartphone or bigger digs for your office. But it's critical to make sure your investment doesn't stretch your cash flow and sink you.

"Growth can put an enormous strain on the cash flow of a company," says Patrice Bernard, senior vice-president, financing and consulting at the Business Development Bank of Canada.

"Small business owners often make the mistake of financing growth out of their cash flow or by cobbling together a patchwork of smaller loans for each individual purchase," Bernard says.

PROTECT CASH FLOW

The result can be poor financing rates and repayment conditions. Or even worse — the company may suddenly become caught in a cash flow squeeze. And then it may be too late to line up any financing at all.

"It's as if you used a credit card to finance your home renovations. Your cash flow would be really affected," Bernard says.

"Bad financial planning is especially common — and risky — at fast-growing companies," says Peter Brown of financial advisory firm Deloitte, where he is national leader of private company services. "High growth can kill you if you don't have the capital."

The solution is to take time to do a financial plan for upcoming investments, preferably at the beginning of each year. The first step is to work out how much financing you will need based on your overall business growth plans.

Next, meet with your financial partners early on to discuss your plans and brief them about your needs for the coming year. This is the time to secure a credit line for your investments in the coming year, which you can draw on as needed and then convert into long-term debt at the end of the year.

PLAN FINANCING

The idea is to plan your financing to have the best possible conditions for your debt. The exercise may even show that you need more than one financial partner to give you enough flexibility. And never pay for large expansion projects out of your cash flow, Bernard says — even if it looks like you have oodles of extra cash on hand right now.

"That's a big mistake," Bernard says. "When cash flow is good, you think it will always be like that. But if a company is growing, it has to invest much more than other companies. And profits usually won't be enough to cover your investments."

Brown agrees: "It's always better to seek financing before you need it rather than during a crisis. It shows good management. Financiers are much more likely to give financing to an entrepreneur who shows good management."

– News Canada

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BREW UP A PLAN FOR EXPANSION

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Patrick Marquis recently opened his fourth Tim Hortons restaurant, making him one of the company's most successful franchisees in Quebec. He attributes his success to a strong brand, a capable team, a supportive bank and a little bit of luck.

"I came on board at the perfect time," he says. "In the early 2000s, Tim Hortons was just starting to gain in popularity in Quebec. I became a franchisee in 2004 and the business has just continued to grow."

Marquis knows well the power of a strong brand: For 15 years, he worked in the corporate offices of MacDonald's. Although his career was going well, he yearned to operate his own business and recognized Tim Hortons' potential in Quebec.

"The business models of the two companies have much in common," Marquis says. "Both focus on consistency in the customer experience and in the quality of food. It's a proven formula."

Marquis appreciated Tim Hortons' turnkey approach to franchising. Once a franchisee signs an agreement, the corporation helps get the new restaurant up and running to its rigorous standards.

The Tim Hortons juggernaut is familiar to most Canadians. From its humble beginnings in Hamilton, Ont., in 1964, the chain has gone on to open more than 4,000 restaurants across Canada and the United States. Total annual sales fell just shy of $3 billion in 2011 and continue to increase. Initially, the chain focused its growth on markets in Ontario and the Maritimes. The number of restaurants in Quebec has doubled in the last 10 years, however, and it opened its 500th restaurant in the province earlier this year.

When Marquis decided to expand to four from two restaurants, he turned to his bank for help. He was disappointed in the quality of service he received, though, and decided to shop around. He quickly settled on Scotiabank.

"I've been extremely satisfied with Scotiabank," he says. "They not only gave the best interest rate, but also provided me with a variety of advice and support."

Marquis now owns three restaurants on Quebec City's south shore and one in the historic old quarter, and is considering further expansion.

PROS AND CONS FOR FRANCHISEES

PROS: Associating with a known brand lowers risk significantly; head office usually pays for advertising, some aspects of customer service (e.g., call centre), and research and development of new products and services.
CONS: Up-front costs can be high; little independence — product and service offering is fixed, and franchisee typically must use corporate suppliers.

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Venture into enchanting and vibrant land of Burmese fare

"This simple way to use leftover rice is great for breakfast," writes Naomi Duguid. "Top it with a fried or poached egg or some cooked chickpeas. Or serve instead of plain rice to accompany a meal.

"After getting up in the dawn hours to photograph markets, I've often found find myself looking forward to some version of the rice, peas, and fried egg combo around eight thirty. At home in Toronto, I top the rice with fresh coriander leaves or tender greens and a fried egg, and drizzle on one of the condiment sauces to give it a nice kick."

1. Place a wok or a heavy, deep skillet over medium-high heat and add the oil, then add the turmeric and shallots and stir-fry until the shallots are tender and translucent, about 5 minutes.

2. Raise the heat to high and use wet hands to break up any clumps as you add the rice to the pan. Add the salt and peas, if using, and stir-fry, pressing the rice against the sides of the pan to sear it. Continue cooking until the rice is hot (the peas should be cooked by then), add the fried shallots, stir-fry briefly, and transfer to a serving bowl. Serve with lime wedges on the side if you wish.

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Fried Rice with Shallots

This recipe serves three or four. RICHARD JUNG

Ingredients

- 2 to 3 tbsp peanut oil
- 1/4 tsp turmeric
- Generous 1/2 cup sliced shallots
- 4 to 5 cups chilled cooked jasmine rice
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 cup green peas (optional)
- 2 tbsp Fried Shallots
- Lime wedges (optional)

Easy-Grilled Chicken

1. Rinse off the chicken and pat dry; set aside in a bowl.

2. Combine the salt, turmeric, chile powder, garlic, and ginger in a mortar or a bowl and pound with the back of a spoon to blend together. Stir in the fish sauce.

3. Add the marinade to the chicken pieces and rub it in well with your hands. Set aside to marinate for 30 minutes.

4. Meanwhile, preheat a charcoal or gas grill to medium heat.

5. Grill the chicken, turning the pieces frequently to expose all sides to the heat and prevent scorching, until cooked to the bone, about 20 minutes.

Ingredients

- 2 1/2 to 3 lbs chicken legs or breasts chopped into small pieces
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/4 tsp turmeric
- 1/2 tsp cayenne (chile powder)
- About 1 tbsp minced garlic
- 1 tbsp minced ginger
- 2 tbsp fish sauce

Cookbook of the Week

Introducing the flavours of Burma

Located at the crossroads between China, India and South Asia, Burma's cuisine combines Chinese noodle dishes, the curries of India and Thailand and salads.

Guiding you through the Burmese kitchen is award-winning author Naomi Duguid in her book Burma: Rivers of Flavor.

With simple recipes for food that manages to be elegant and earthy at the same time, plus stories of a place and a people that inspired Somerset Maugham and George Orwell, this is a culinary journey worth taking. The book also features photographs, travel tips and more.

Among the specific recipes are: Rice-Batter Crepes, Mandalay Noodles with Chicken Curry, Fried Sesame-Seed Bananas, Chile-Oil Fish and more. METRO

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AUTHENTIC ITALIAN FOOD AWAITS YOU

TOSCANA ITALIAN GRILL YOUR 'LITTLE TASTE OF ITALY'

Fresh authentic Italian food awaits you at Toscana Italian Grill, located on Macleod Trail.

The quality of the food and the ambiance make for a wonderful dining experience.

"We are your little taste of Italy," says Chef Blerim Bekteshi, co-owner of Toscana Italian Grill, who has 24 years of experience in Italian cuisine.

"We offer a number of authentic Italian dishes that will be sure to have your mouth watering."

MORE ONLINE

There is always something new and fresh happening at Toscana Italian Grill.

Keep up-to-date on menu specials and events at Toscana Italian Grill by checking them out online.

Follow Toscana Italian Grill online on Facebook at facebook.com/ToscanaItalianGrill, and on Twitter @toscana_grill.

With a number of lunch specials available, customers can come in and order Tuscan-flavoured signature sandwiches, pastas or pizzas.

They also offer gluten-free pasta and pizza, along with many other gluten-free friendly options.

"We want all of our customers to leave feeling like they are a part of the family and we want them to return again soon," says Hektor Askushaj, general manager/co-owner of Toscana Italian Grill.

He adds that Toscana is a place you can leisurely dine, not simply eat.

Relax with a cocktail in the lounge area and bar and then head over to the dining area and enjoy a delicious meal.

They are proud to exclusively offer an all-Italian wine list, expertly selected to pair with their dishes.

"Our restaurant is warm and inviting and inspires a welcoming atmosphere to sit and enjoy our excellent selection of wine, beer and food with friends and family," says Askushaj.

Toscana Italian Grill is also the perfect place to host your next event or Christmas/holiday party.

With two semi-private dining rooms (one that seats up to 30 and the other that seats up to 60), it will have your guests reminiscing about their experience for years to come.

Toscana Italian Grill is conveniently located at 1B-8330 Macleod Trail southeast, and is open seven days a week for lunch and dinner.

"Come in and experience our beautiful restaurant where the ambience will engage all of the senses," says Askushaj.

Make a reservation by calling 403-255-1212 or online at toscanagrill.ca.

Pitcher Jason Motte and catcher Yadier Molina celebrate the Cardinals' win on Wednesday in St. Louis. ELSA/GETTY IMAGES

Cards rein in Giants in soggy St. Louis

NLCS. Substitute Carpenter has big hit as Cardinals beat Giants to take NLCS lead

Carlos Beltran limped to the trainer's room, taking the St. Louis Cardinals' biggest clutch October bat with him.

Turns out they had the perfect substitute.

Matt Carpenter hit a two-run homer after subbing for Beltran and the Cardinals chased Matt Cain before a 3 1/2-hour rain delay in the seventh inning of a 3-1 victory over the San Francisco Giants on Wednesday night for a 2-1 NL championship series lead.

Beltran strained his left knee running out a double-play ball in the first inning and the Cardinals said he was day to day.

Game 3

Cardinals	Giants
3	1

Kyle Lohse worked around a season-worst five walks in 5 2/3 innings. Mitchell Boggs struck out Hunter Pence and Brandon Belt with two on to end the seventh. Jason Motte earned the first two-inning save of his career to reward what remained of a sellout crowd of 45,850 — perhaps a third — that stuck around for a game that lasted three hours and two minutes, about a half-hour shorter than the delay.

"They said if we didn't score I was going to go out there. I was in the clubhouse running around; I've never really had to sit around like that," Motte said. "It was probably the most nervous I've ever been."

Giants second baseman Marco Scutaro had two hits and a clean game in the field, two days after Matt Holliday rammed him breaking up a double-play ball. Manager Bruce Bochy had said there would be no retaliation, and Game 3 was collision-free.

Cain lost for the second time this post-season, giving up three runs on five hits in 6 1/3 innings. The Giants, who entered the game batting just .217 in the post-season, were 0 for 7 with runners in scoring position.

The Cardinals snapped the Giants' five-game road winning streak in the post-season, three of them this year.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ALCS

Game 4 of the AL championship series between the Detroit Tigers and New York Yankees was postponed because of a stormy forecast Wednesday night.

- With the Tigers seeking a sweep in the best-of-seven series, Game 4 was rescheduled for Thursday at 4:07 p.m.

Lockout

NHL talks enter crucial stages

As the NHL's labour dispute went on display for public viewing, it underscored the importance of the next week in negotiations.

The league's latest collective bargaining offer to the NHL Players' Association — surprisingly released in full by the NHL on Wednesday — came with an attached warning about the consequences of failing to reach an agreement by Oct. 25.

In a document delivered to the union along with Tuesday's 10-point proposal, the NHL indicated it couldn't "responsibly" offer more than the 50-50 split of revenues and other items it was tabling. It also sought to add urgency to the talks.

"Delay (beyond Oct. 25) will necessarily leave us with an abbreviated season and will require the cancellation of signature NHL events," it read.

"Failure to reach a prompt agreement will also have other significant and detrimental impacts on our fans, the game, our clubs, our business and the communities in which we play."

Donald Fehr, the NHLPA's executive director, spent Wednesday examining the proposal along with union staff and was expected to deliver a counter-offer when the sides resume talks on Thursday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHLPA executive director Donald Fehr in Toronto on Tuesday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Armstrong through with Livestrong, Nike

Lance Armstrong stepped down as chairman of his Livestrong charity and was dropped by Nike on Wednesday. JAMIE SQUIRE/GETTY IMAGES FILE

Already an outcast in cycling after a massive doping report, Lance Armstrong absorbed hits much closer to home Wednesday: To his wallet and his heart.

Armstrong was dumped by Nike, Anheuser-Busch and other sponsors, and he gave up the top spot at Livestrong, his beloved cancer-fighting charity, a week after an anti-doping agency released evidence of drug use by the seven-time Tour de France winner.

Armstrong stepped down as chairman of Livestrong in an attempt to minimize the damage caused by the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency's report.

By the numbers

80 M

In 2004 the Livestrong foundation introduced yellow bracelets, selling more than 80 million and creating a global symbol for cancer awareness and survivorship.

USADA banned Armstrong from the sport for life and has ordered that his Tour titles be stripped, which could come before the end of the month.

"This organization, its mission and its supporters are incredibly dear to my heart," the cancer survivor said in a statement. "Today therefore, to spare the foundation any negative effects as a result of controversy surrounding my cycling career, I will conclude my chairmanship."

Minutes later, Nike dropped its personal sponsorship contract with him and issued a blistering statement that the company had been duped by his denials over the years.

Armstrong's story of not only recovering from testicular cancer that had spread to his lungs and brain but then winning the world's best-known bike race helped his foundation grow from a small operation in Texas into one of the most popular charities in the U.S. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Followed by teammates, Canada's Iain Hume walks off the pitch after losing 8-1 to Honduras on Tuesday. ESTEBAN FELIX/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canada to pay a high price for humiliating loss in Honduras

Soccer. Veteran players likely to retire while growing enthusiasm among public may be hurt with no matches for fans to cheer

Canadian soccer officials had hoped to be in Miami on Thursday, meeting with CONCACAF officials to map out the final round of World Cup qualifying.

Instead, in the wake of a humiliating 8-1 defeat in Honduras, they find themselves forced to do yet another post-mortem on the men's soccer program.

Coach Stephen Hart is likely gone. A decent man who holds the affection and respect of his players, Hart will no doubt pay the price for what happened in Honduras.

After a 15-year absence from the final round of qualifying in the region, Canada seemed poised to return to CONCACAF's elite level.

One of the teams in their group, Cuba, was a weak sister. Hart correctly pointed to Panama as the strongest side in the group but Honduras seemed a possible target.

In the past, lack of success at home snuffed out Canadian chances. This time, Canada took seven of nine points from three games at BMO Field.

But a 0-0 home tie in June against the Hondurans was a killer. Had Canada finished its chances and won at BMO Field, Tuesday's game in Honduras would have been rendered meaningless.

Making the final round would have meant a 10-game qualifying campaign for Canada plus a chance to showcase the sport and perhaps capture the kind of public wave of enthusiasm that engulfed the women's side during the Olympics.

"Crucial for us," Peter Montopoli, general secretary of the Canadian Soccer Association, said last week about making the final round.

"For us to advance to the next round, it gives us a full competition schedule.... We've seen the interest now over the last two years of what playing home matches can do. And if we can have five matches at home in 2013, it raises the significance, the relevancy of the team to the highest level possible, and we know the country will be cheering them on as they were watching the women's team."

File that in Canadian soccer's extensive "Might Have Been" archive. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"We could have and should have (had) it wrapped up before it even got to this game."

Canadian captain Kevin McKenna on Canada failing to win a key home game that could have rendered Tuesday's match meaningless

Retirements likely

The embarrassing qualifying exit will also no doubt trigger the retirement of some key players on the Canadian squad.

- With the next World Cup qualifying cycle years away, players based in Europe or nearing the end of their club career are unlikely to go through the rigours of international football for a team that has nothing to play for.
- Players like Junior Hoilett and Jonathan de Guzman, who have other international options, will no doubt continue to turn their back on Canada.
- Captain Kevin McKenna agreed that the Honduras debacle was the kind of game that forces players to ponder their international careers.
- "Without a doubt," he said after the game. "I mean, whether you're young or old, I think it's a game you look back and think, 'Is it worth it anymore?'"

Lions lineman fined for racist tweet

Lions lineman Khalif Mitchell is in trouble with the CFL again, this time for a message posted to Twitter. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

B.C. Lions defensive lineman Khalif Mitchell was fined an undisclosed amount by the CFL on Wednesday for posting a message containing a racial slur on his Twitter account.

While tweeting about Tuesday's U.S. presidential debate, Mitchell posted a message with a term that is derogatory towards Chinese people.

He later apologized for using the word, saying he didn't know it was offensive.

The 27-year-old from Virginia Beach, Va., was due to return from injury for Friday's game against Edmonton after missing the last three weeks.

But the team says Mitchell will now not suit up against the Eskimos.

"This decision is a response to Khalif's inappropriate comments made on his Twitter feed this morning and despite his public expression of remorse, we believe this is the best course of action for our organization at this time," Lions CEO Dennis Skulsky said in a statement.

The league said Mitchell broke the guidelines of its social-media policy, which states that players publishing online postings "that may bring the CFL into disrepute, including posts that condone harassment, discrimination or violence," are subject to discipline from the league commissioner.

Mitchell's comments also caught the attention of B.C. Premier Christy Clark, who is a fan of the Lions and called his comments "stupid."

It's not the first time Mitchell has gotten himself into trouble.

Earlier this season, he served a two-game suspension for hyperextending the elbow of Edmonton Eskimos offensive lineman Simeon Rottier. THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Kissing Bandit

Adriano Belli sealed his return to the Toronto Argonauts with a kiss.

- **What's in a name?** Belli is dubbed the "Kissing Bandit" because he routinely kisses people he meets on the cheek.
- **Ending retirement.** The six-foot-five, 289-pound defensive tackle retired prior to the 2011 campaign after 10 seasons, but decided to rejoin the CFL club on Wednesday and appropriately puckered up and gave Argos coach Scott Milanovich a peck on the cheek.

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MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

(BEST-OF-7)

AMERICAN LEAGUE

N.Y. YANKEES VS. DETROIT

(Detroit leads series 3-0)

Wednesday's result
N.Y. Yankees at Detroit (ppd., rain forecast)
Tuesday's result
Detroit 2 N.Y. Yankees 1
Sunday's result
Detroit 3 N.Y. Yankees 0
Saturday's result
Detroit 6 N.Y. Yankees 4 (12 innings)
Thursday's game
N.Y. Yankees (Sabathia 15-6) at Detroit (Scherzer 16-7), 4:07 p.m.
Friday's game
x-N.Y. Yankees (Pettitte 5-4) at Detroit (Fister 10-10), TBA
Saturday's game
x-Detroit (Sanchez 4-6) at N.Y. Yankees (Kuroda 16-11), 8:07 p.m.
Sunday's game
x-Detroit (Verlander 17-8) at N.Y. Yankees (Hughes 16-13), 8:07 p.m.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

SAN FRANCISCO VS. ST. LOUIS

(St. Louis leads series 2-1)

Wednesday's result
St. Louis 3 San Francisco 1
Monday's result
San Francisco 7 St. Louis 1
Sunday's result
St. Louis 6 San Francisco 4
Thursday's game
San Francisco (Zito 15-8) at St. Louis (Wainwright 14-13), 8:07 p.m.
Friday's game
San Francisco (Bumgarner 16-11) at St. Louis (Lynn 18-7), 8:07 p.m.
Sunday's game
x-St. Louis (Carpenter 0-2) at San Francisco (Vogelsong 14-9), 4:37 p.m.
Monday, October 22
x-St. Louis (Lohse 16-3) at San Francisco (Cain 16-5), 8:07 p.m.
x — played only if necessary.

CARDINALS 3, GIANTS 1

San Francisco	ab	r	h	bi	St. Louis	ab	r	h	bi
Pagan cf	5	1	1	0	Jay cf	3	1	1	0
Scutaro 2b	5	0	2	0	Beltran rf	1	0	0	0
Sandoval 3b	5	0	2	1	Carpenter rf-1b	3	1	1	2
Posey c	2	0	1	0	Holliday lf	4	0	0	0
Pence rf	4	0	0	0	Craig 1b	3	0	0	0
Belt 1b	3	0	0	0	Chambers rf	0	0	0	0
Blanco lf	3	0	0	0	Molina c	4	0	1	0
Crawford ss	3	0	2	0	Freese 3b	3	1	2	0
Huff ph	1	0	0	0	Descalso 2b	2	0	0	0
					Kozma ss	3	0	1	0
					Robinson rf	1	0	0	1
Totals	**31**	**1**	**8**	**1**	**Totals**	**27**	**3**	**6**	**3**

San Francisco						001	000	000		**—1**
St. Louis						002	000	10x		**—3**

E—Cain. LOB—St. Louis 5, San Francisco 11. DP—San Francisco 1. St. Louis 2. 2B—Scutaro (1), Freese (1). HR—Carpenter (1). S—Cain.

San Francisco	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Cain L, 0-1	6 2-3	6	3	3	1	2
Lopez	1-3	0	0	0	0	0
Mijares	2-3	0	0	0	1	1
Kontos	1-3	0	0	0	0	0
St. Louis						
Lohse W, 1-0	5 2-3	7	1	1	5	2
Rosenthal H, 2	1-3	0	0	0	0	0
Mujica H, 2	1-3	2	0	0	0	0
Boggs H, 2	2-3	0	0	0	0	2
Motte S, 2	2	0	0	0	0	0

HBP — Jay.
Umpires — Home, Bill Miller; First, Greg Gibson; Second, Ted Barrett; Third, Jerry Layne.
T — 3:02. **A** — 45,850 (43,975) at St. Louis, Mo.

AHL

Wednesday's result
Chicago 2 Peoria 1 (OT)
Tuesday's result
Binghamton 3 Rochester 1
Thursday's games
No Games Scheduled.
Friday's games — All Times Eastern
Adirondack at St. John's, 6 p.m.
Syracuse at Albany, 7 p.m.
Providence at Manchester, 7 p.m.
Worcester vs. Portland (at Lewiston, Maine), 7 p.m.
Wilkes-Barre/Scranton at Springfield, 7 p.m.
Hershey at Binghamton, 7:05 p.m.
Grand Rapids at Rochester, 7:05 p.m.
Toronto at Hamilton, 7:30 p.m.
Connecticut at Norfolk, 7:30 p.m.
Charlotte at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
San Antonio at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.
Texas at Houston, 8:05 p.m.
Rockford at Peoria, 8:05 p.m.
Chicago at Abbotsford, 10 p.m.

NBA

PRE-SEASON

Wednesday's results
Toronto 104 Washington 101
Houston 109 Memphis 102
Philadelphia 113 Cleveland 99
Phoenix 100 Dallas 94
Portland 97 Denver 90
Golden State at Sacramento
Utah at L.A. Clippers
Tuesday's results
Brooklyn 97 Boston 98
Chicago 100 Milwaukee 94
Detroit 112 Orlando 86
Indiana 102 Atlanta 98
Minnesota 114 Maccabi Haifa (Israel) 81
Oklahoma City 120 Charlotte 98
At Anaheim, Calif.
Utah 114 L.A. Lakers 80
Thursday's games — All Times Eastern
New Orleans at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Detroit at Miami, 7:30 p.m.
Memphis vs. Milwaukee (at La Crosse, Wisc.), 8 p.m.
Boston at Brooklyn, 8 p.m.
Friday's games
New York vs. Toronto (at Montreal), 7 p.m.
Indiana at Orlando, 7 p.m.
Philadelphia at Brooklyn, 7:30 p.m.
Minnesota at Chicago, 8 p.m.
Phoenix vs. Oklahoma City (at Tulsa, Okla.), 8 p.m.
Sacramento vs. L.A. Lakers (at Las Vegas), 10 p.m.
Golden State at Portland, 10 p.m.

TENNIS

ATP-WTA KREMLIN CUP

At Moscow
Men
Singles — First Round
Konstantin Kravchuk, Russia, def. Evgeny Korolev, Kazakhstan, 6-4, 6-3.
Igor Sijsling, Netherlands, def. Michael Berrer, Germany, 7-6 (7), 6-3.
Women
Singles — First Round
Dominika Cibulkova (5), Slovakia, def. Ekaterina Makarova, Russia, 2-6, 6-4, 6-2.
Tsvetana Pironkova, Bulgaria, def. Varvara Lepchenko, U.S., 6-0, 7-6 (3).
Vesna Dolonc, Serbia, def. Galina Voskoboeva, Kazakhstan, 1-6, 6-1, 6-4.

ATP STOCKHOLM OPEN

At Stockholm
Singles — Second Round
Nicolas Almagro (3), Spain, def. Marius Copil, Romania, 6-4, 7-6 (4).
Ricardas Berankis, Lithuania, def. Florian Mayer (4), Germany, 4-6, 6-4, 6-2.
Mikhail Youzhny (6), Russia, def. Patrik Rosenholm, Sweden, 6-0, 6-2.
Lleyton Hewitt, Australia, def. Jarkko Nieminen (8), Finland, 7-6 (2), 2-6, 6-4.

WTA BNP LUXEMBOURG OPEN

At Luxembourg
Singles — First Round
Daniela Hantuchova, Slovakia, def. Arantxa Rus, Netherlands, 3-6, 6-4, 6-1.
Anne Keothavong, Britain, def. Kiki Bertens, Netherlands, 6-2, 6-2.
Ksenia Pervak, Kazakhstan, def. Vera Dushevina, Russia, 6-3, 7-6 (2).
Andrea Petkovic, Germany, def. Garbine Muguruza, Spain, 4-6, 6-2, 6-1.
Second Round
Lourdes Dominguez Lino, Spain, def. Magdalena Rybarikova, Slovakia, 6-2, 6-3.
Lucie Hradecka, Czech Republic, def. Annika Beck, Germany, 6-1, 6-1.
Doubles — Quarter-finals
Andrea Hlavackova and Lucie Hradecka (1), Czech Republic, def. Lara Arruabarrena-Vecino and Lourdes Dominguez Lino, Spain, 6-7 (2), 7-6 (8), 10-5.
Irina-Camelia Begu and Monica Niculescu (2), Romania, def. Kiki Bertens and Arantxa Rus, Netherlands, 6-4, 6-3.

ATP ERSTE BANK OPEN

At Vienna, Austria
Singles — First Round
Donald Young, U.S., def. Fabio Fognini (5), Italy, 7-6 (8), 6-3.
Dominic Thiem, Austria, def. Lukas Lacko, Slovakia, 7-6 (3), 6-3.
Ernests Gulbis, Latvia, def. Somdev Devvarman, India, 7-6 (6), 6-3.
Second Round
Juan Martin del Potro (1), Argentina, def. Daniel Brands, Germany, 6-7 (5), 7-6 (4), 7-6 (6).
Gilles Muller, Luxembourg, def. Jurgen Melzer (4), Austria, 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 (4).
Doubles — First Round
Julian Knowle, Austria, and Filip Polasek (2), Slovakia, def. Fabio Fognini, Italy, and David Marrero, Spain, 5-7, 6-4, 10-7.
Janko Tipsarevic, Serbia, and Alexander Waske, Germany, def. Matthew Ebden and Marinko Matosevic, Australia, 6-4, 6-3.

SOCCER

MLS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
x-Kansas City	17	7	8	59	40	26
x-Chicago	17	10	5	56	45	39
D.C.	16	10	6	54	49	40
New York	15	9	8	53	54	46
Houston	13	8	11	50	45	38
Columbus	14	11	7	49	40	40
Montreal	12	15	5	41	45	50
Philadelphia	10	15	6	36	35	37
New England	7	17	8	29	37	44
Toronto	5	20	7	22	35	60

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
x-San Jose	19	6	7	64	69	40
x-Real Salt Lake	18	11	5	56	46	35
x-Seattle	15	7	11	53	48	31
x-Los Angeles	15	12	5	50	56	45
Vancouver	11	12	9	42	35	40
FC Dallas	9	12	11	38	39	42
Colorado	9	19	4	31	40	50
Portland	7	16	9	30	32	55
Chivas USA	7	17	8	29	22	54

x — clinched playoff berth.
Wednesday's result
Real Salt Lake 0 Seattle 0
Saturday's games — All Times Eastern
Montreal at Toronto, 1:30 p.m.
Kansas City at New York, 7 p.m.
Columbus at D.C., 7:30 p.m.
Chicago at New England, 7:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Houston, 7:30 p.m.
Colorado at Chivas USA, 10:30 p.m.
Sunday's games
Portland at Vancouver, 7 p.m.
Los Angeles at San Jose, 7 p.m.
Dallas at Seattle, 9 p.m.

2014 WORLD CUP QUALIFYING

NORTH, CENTRAL AND CARIBBEAN ZONE

x — clinched berth in regional final

GROUP A

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pt
x-U.S.	6	4	1	1	11	6	13
x-Jamaica	6	3	1	2	9	6	10
Guatemala	6	3	1	2	9	8	10
Antigua	6	0	1	5	4	13	1

GROUP B

x-Mexico	6	6	0	0	15	2	18
x-Costa Rica	6	3	1	2	14	5	10
El Salvador	7	1	2	4	8	18	5
Guyana	5	0	1	4	5	17	1

GROUP C

x-Honduras	6	3	2	1	12	3	11
x-Panama	6	3	2	1	6	2	11
Canada	**6**	**3**	**1**	**2**	**6**	**10**	**10**
Cuba	6	0	1	5	1	10	1

Tuesday's results
At San Pedro Sula, Honduras
Honduras 8 **Canada 1**
At Havana
Panama 1 Cuba 1
At Kingston, Jamaica
Jamaica 4 Antigua 1
At Kansas City, Kan.
U.S. 3 Guatemala 1
At San Jose, Costa Rica
Costa Rica 7 Guyana 0
At Torreon, Mexico
Mexico 2 El Salvador 0

EUROPE

Wednesday's result
GROUP H
Poland 1 England 1

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

EAST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	3	3	0	.500	188	137
N.Y. Jets	3	3	0	.500	133	141
Miami	3	3	0	.500	120	117
Buffalo	3	3	0	.500	137	192

SOUTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Houston	5	1	0	.833	173	115
Indianapolis	2	3	0	.400	100	145
Tennessee	2	4	0	.333	114	204
Jacksonville	1	4	0	.200	65	138

NORTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Baltimore	5	1	0	.833	161	118
Cincinnati	3	3	0	.500	149	163
Pittsburgh	2	3	0	.400	116	115
Cleveland	1	5	0	.167	134	163

WEST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Denver	3	3	0	.500	170	138
San Diego	3	3	0	.500	148	137
Oakland	1	4	0	.200	87	148
Kansas City	1	5	0	.167	104	183

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

EAST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
N.Y. Giants	4	2	0	.667	178	114
Philadelphia	3	3	0	.500	103	125
Washington	3	3	0	.500	178	173
Dallas	2	3	0	.400	94	119

SOUTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Atlanta	6	0	0	1.000	171	113
Tampa Bay	2	3	0	.400	120	101
Carolina	1	4	0	.200	92	125
New Orleans	1	4	0	.200	141	154

NORTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Chicago	4	1	0	.800	149	71
Minnesota	4	2	0	.667	146	117
Green Bay	3	3	0	.500	154	135
Detroit	2	3	0	.400	126	137

WEST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Arizona	4	2	0	.667	110	97
San Francisco	4	2	0	.667	152	94
Seattle	4	2	0	.667	110	93
St. Louis	3	3	0	.500	110	111

WEEK SIX

Monday's result
Denver 35 San Diego 24
Sunday's results
Miami 17 St. Louis 14
Baltimore 31 Dallas 29
Atlanta 23 Oakland 20
Tampa Bay 38 Kansas City 10
N.Y. Jets 35 Indianapolis 9
Detroit 26 Philadelphia 23
Cleveland 34 Cincinnati 24
Seattle 24 New England 23
Buffalo 19 Arizona 16
Washington 38 Minnesota 26
N.Y. Giants 26 San Francisco 3
Green Bay 42 Houston 24
Thursday, October 11
Tennessee 26 Pittsburgh 23

WEEK SEVEN

Thursday's game
All Times Eastern
Seattle at San Francisco, 8:20 p.m.
Sunday's games
Tennessee at Buffalo, 1 p.m.
Baltimore at Houston, 1 p.m.
Cleveland at Indianapolis, 1 p.m.
Arizona at Minnesota, 1 p.m.
Dallas at Carolina, 1 p.m.
Green Bay at St. Louis, 1 p.m.
Washington at N.Y. Giants, 1 p.m.
New Orleans at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.
Jacksonville at Oakland, 4:25 p.m.
N.Y. Jets at New England, 4:25 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati, 8:20 p.m.
Monday, October 22
Detroit at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.

CFL

WEEK 16

EAST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	T	PF	PA	Pt
x-Montreal	15	9	6	0	406	417	18
Toronto	15	7	8	0	339	381	14
Hamilton	15	5	10	0	438	481	10
Winnipeg	15	4	11	0	295	460	8

WEST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	T	PF	PA	Pt
x-B.C.	15	11	4	0	402	288	22
x-Calgary	15	9	6	0	430	350	18
Saskatchewan	15	8	7	0	397	327	16
Edmonton	15	7	8	0	351	354	14

Saturday's results
Calgary 32 Winnipeg 21
Edmonton 37 Saskatchewan 20
Sunday's result
Montreal 24 Toronto 12
WEEK 17
Friday's games — All Times Eastern
Winnipeg at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Edmonton at B.C., 10 p.m.
Saturday's games
Montreal at Saskatchewan, 3:30 p.m.
Hamilton at Calgary, 7 p.m.

TRANSACTIONS

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE

DETROIT TIGERS — Traded RHP Marcelo Carreno to the Chicago Cubs to complete an earlier trade.
TORONTO BLUE JAYS — Claimed OF Scott Cousins off waivers from Miami and RHP Cory Wade from the N.Y. Yankees.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

MILWAUKEE BREWERS — Announced RHP Livan Hernandez and C Yorvit Torrealba have refused outright assignments and elected to become free agents.

CFL

LEAGUE OFFICE — Fined Hamilton DB Dee Webb an undisclosed amount for his actions during Friday's game.
TORONTO ARGONAUTS — Added DL Adriano Belli to the practice roster.

NHL

DALLAS STARS — Assigned D Hubert Labrie to Idaho (ECHL).
TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS — Assigned F Sam Carrick to Idaho (ECHL).

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Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
Something apparently random will happen today but if you look a little closer and dig a little deeper, you will find there is a reason for it. Could it be someone is trying to disrupt your plans? Yes it could.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Try not to make too big a deal of your differences with neighbours and work colleagues. The more you focus on negative things, the more power you give them. Remember: Laughter is usually the best healer.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Promise yourself now that no matter what happens over the next 24 hours, you will not overreact. Take life as it comes and make the best of whatever situation you happen to find yourself in. No, the world isn't ending.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
You are finding it hard to cope with changes that are not of your making. The good news is that someone you meet today will cheer you up and brighten your outlook considerably. Stop worrying about little things.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
What at first looks like a setback will later reveal itself to be good fortune in disguise. Little things may go wrong in the short term, but over the longer haul they usually come right for you. Life's like that.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
No one is perfect, least of all you. The mistake you are making is that you want to live up to standards that are too high to maintain for more than a few minutes, even for a Virgo. You're only human.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Don't make too many plans over the next few days because you will most likely have to change them when the Sun leaves your sign on the 23rd. The best plan is no plan at all. Take each moment as it comes.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You may feel a bit insecure but the good news is this phase will pass — and soon. In a matter of days, you will realize you had nothing to worry about. Life is good and getting better by the minute.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
For some reason, you don't want others to know what you have been up to. Was it really that bad? Don't be too secretive though or you may arouse the curiosity of rivals as well as friends — and that's dangerous.

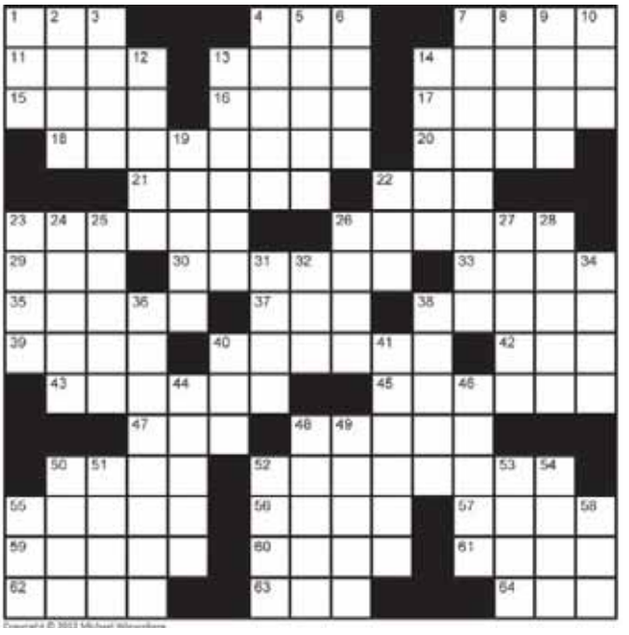
♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You will come into some interesting information today, the kind of information that you may be able to use to make yourself look good. But you must not use it to make someone else look bad — that's not nice.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You have nothing to prove. No, really, nothing at all. Both at home and at work, the people who count know what you can do and know that you will never let them down. That's not the Aquarian way.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Use your good-natured charm to convince a friend or colleague that they really should change their ways for the better. You don't have to come over all moralistic about it but you do need to highlight their errors. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Start With a Motoring Group

BY MICHAEL WIESENBERG



Across
1. Canadian map dispensers: initialism
4. ___ la la
7. Pit at a rock concert
11. A/C capacity measures
13. Like most colleges
14. Christmas visitor
15. Pepsi or Coke
16. Scots Gaelic
17. Fields of learning
18. Alberta's second-largest city
20. Clenched hand
21. Chose to join, with "in"
22. Bring home after expenses
23. Middle Eastern market
26. Harper group
29. Pub favorite
30. PM Pearson
33. Cat's call
35. Bums
37. Fib
38. Earth or land: Fr.
39. Breaking waves
40. Northern Canada land feature
42. "A girl" or "a boy" preceder
43. More moronic
45. ___ *Goes to Camp:* 1987 Jim Varney comedy
47. Gay Nineties or Roaring Twenties
48. Mr. ____: nearsighted cartoon character with Jim Backus's voice
50. Baseball team
52. Ontario neighbour
55. Lack of fighting
56. One of many on a computer desktop
57. William Lyon Mackenzie ___: 10th PM
59. Eggs on
60. "Told you I could do it!"
61. "Fifth Avenue" store
62. Audience's expressions of disapproval
63. Foot digit
64. Occupied a chair

Down
1. *This Hour Has 22 Minutes* network
2. Dip ___ in the water: test bath temperature (2 wds.)
3. "We'll take a cup of kindness yet for ___ lang syne"
4. Cake often made with ground nuts
5. Do a lawn job
6. Mideast Gulf
7. ___ Provinces: they're on the Atlantic
8. Individual units
9. Baseball figure, for short
10. Owns
12. American ___: Pacific Ocean territory
13. Midpoint
14. Toronto-born *60 Minutes* regular Morley
19. October birthstones
22. And not
23. Comments often uttered by Ebenezer Scrooge
24. Audible
25. Striped equine
26. Started a golf hole, with "off"
27. Like many a Stephen King novel
28. Alphabetizes, for example
31. Aspersion
32. *Cat on a Hot ___ Roof*
34. AB's and BC's place in Canada, directionally
36. Transgressions
38. Fortune teller's 22-card deck
40. Black or green drink
41. Provincial capital whose name means "queen"
44. Forest constituents
46. Breakfast spots
48. Chinese gambling mecca west of Hong Kong
49. Negative end of a battery
50. Rome's fiddling emperor
51. Othello's betrayer
52. Catcher's glove
53. Slant
54. Ottawa-born singer of Lonely Boy
55. Tavern
58. Canada's national levy, for short

Yesterday's Crossword

What's online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

		7				3	2	
6	8						4	
			9		5	1		
		8			1	9		5
			4		3			
3		6	8			4		
		2	6		7			
	1						9	4
	6	5				7		

Yesterday's Sudoku

Weather

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
MAX: 15° MIN: -3°	MAX: 11° MIN: 6°	MAX: 0° MIN: -7°

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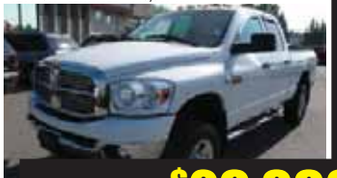

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